THE

MOUNTAIN CHIEF;

OR, THE

DESCENDANT OF WILLIAM TELL,

The Deliverer of Switzerland.

A ROMANCE.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

"'Tis liberty that gives
" The fading flower of life its lustre and perfume,
" And we are weeds without it."

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THE

MOUNTAIN CHIEF.

CHAPTER XIII.

EARLY on the following morning the chiefs assembled together to mature the plan of attack upon the town of Zurich. The return of Riesbach had superseded the necessity of an attack the same evening, and the fatigues which the Switzers of Lucerne had endured, induced Ulric to propose that the measure should be postponed until the fol-

lowing night. "The enemy," said he, as he argued the point, "cannot receive reinforcements in so short an interval; nor can they obtain information of our design. We have no spies amongst us; our intentions are confined to our own bosoms, and our numbers are so formidable that we need not fear the utmost resistance of which the Austrian garrison is capable. They do not exceed nine thousand men, capable of bearing arms, and their walls in many places, have been greatly damaged: the southern gate may be carried with two thousand men, and the western, with one half that number. The chief of our strength must be directed against the northern postern; there is situated the residence of the Governor, and it is there that we shall be most vigorously opposed. Yet we have no cause to fear for the

result; let us act decisively and Zurich is our's."

The chieftains agreed in the policy of their commander's scheme. "Although not born a Swiss," said Ap Gryff, "there is not a son of the mountains who feels a greater interest in the emancipation of his country, than I do. But there is another duty which calls for our attention. The Count of Zur and his amiable daughter have escaped from Zurich, but we know nothing of their safety. Their flight was in the hours of darkness, and it is more than probable that they have bewildered themselves in the mountains. Let detachments of the band take different courses, and search for our friends; since on their safety, if I am not deceived, depends much of the future welfare of our leader; and it is a debt of gratitude which

we all owe to the House of Zur, which demands some repayment on our part."

Ulric grasped the hand of the bard, and, with a faltering voice, stammered out his thanks. "Let not a moment be lost in dispatching divisions to the different parts of the mountain. My life is of little value, if that of my Florida should be lost. The bare idea chills my heart. What cursed apathy had locked up my usual activity, that I did not adopt this measure spontaneously! Even now, while I give way to useless regrets, the time flies away which ought to be devoted to the important search."

Thus said Ulric, as he hastened into the cavern to expedite the departure of the detachments. "Five hundred rix dollars," said he, "shall be the reward of the troop which is

successful, to be drawn from the coffers of our enemies, when we shall force an entrance within the walls of Zurich." The soldiers with a shout, applauded the liberality of their commander, and in a few minutes, were dispersed, in various directions, over the whole surface of the mountains.

During the absence of these parties, the hours passed heavily to the active mind of Ulric. He strove to relieve the tediousness by conversation with his friends, by a retrospection of the past, and an anticipation of the future. He mounted, in imagination, the walls of Zurich, and gave battle to the appalled enemy, but the image of his Florida, fainting, gasping, and dying beneath the pressure of hunger and fatigue intercepted the flights of his fancy, and recalled him from his visionary

conflicts. He shuddered, and felt all his faculties benumbed with horror, as he thought upon the bare possibility of such a circumstance. If his friends were indeed reduced to this horrible situation, the search of the soldiers would, most probably, be in vain, since the object of his affection might be pent up by weariness in some dreary cavern, which might escape the eyes of those who were in search of them, and they might thus be left to die, without help or hope. Ap Gryff read the agitation of his soul, in the eyes of Ulric, and he sought to recal him from his gloomy reflections: but, although the bard succeeded in dispelling the gloomy prospect for a moment, it would soon return with new horrors, and make a deeper impression than before. Thus passed the greater part of the day, when,

just as the evening began its approach, the first of the bands returned unsuccessful. For the first time in his life, Ulric received his fellow soldiers with a gloomy frown; but when he perceived the effect it produced upon those who had always hitherto shared his smiles, he relaxed his brow, and sought to recompence for his unjustifiable anger by acts of redoubled kindness. "It was disappointment, my comrades," said he, "which soured my disposition for a moment; but, believe me, I am fully satisfied that you have done your duty."

This assurance restored the spirits of the soldiers; but Ulric continued a prey to still greater sorrow and anxiety; and, as each detachment dropped in, without bringing the wished-for news of success, his spirits gradually decayed. A circum-

stance, however, occurred, which tended to divert his mind, for a moment, from the contemplation of a terrible prospect. One of the detachments returned, bringing a prisoner. "This man, noble captain," said him to whom the command of this division had been entrusted, "we found prowling about the mountain, like a spy; but, instead of shunning us, no sooner did he observe us, than he advanced towards us, with a great deal of confidence, and giving himself up to us, demanded of us to conduct him to our commander. We have complied with his request, for, when I saw his boldness, I refrained from questioning him, and I wish that he may bring us some news which may recompense us for the trouble of bringing him."

Ulric had not raised his head, during this speech, for the figure of the

prisoner, as he entered the cave, proved that it was not the Count of Zur; but he was now suddenly rouzed from his abstraction, by an exclamation from Ap Gryff and Riesbach, at the same instant—"It is Henrick."

"Henrick," exclaimed the chief, for the first time this day, losing sight of the Count and his Florida; and, finding the ejaculations founded in truth, he continued, "Why, Henrick, what has brought you into these mountains? Are you come to unite yourself with us, driven by tyranny from your native place, or have you aught to communicate which is of importance to our common cause? What has occurred since we last parted in Zurich?"

"A body of Austrian troops is on its march for Zurich," replied Henrick, "and will arrive in three days

from this time. They come from the German frontiers; but a rich convoy is also on its way from the same quarter, and is now, within twenty-four hours march of the town. If you set forward with the dawn of the morning, you cannot fail to intercept these stores and provisions, and to make prize of them, for they are weakly guarded, not dreaming of interruption. I gained this information, not three hours since, from my son, who introduced you, on that unfortunate day, to Lucette, the Governor's daughter; a messenger arrived this day, with the grateful intelligence which has reassured the Austrians astonishingly. I considered it my duty, as a true Swiss, not to delay a moment in the communication of the news."

"You have rendered us a great service," replied Ulric, "and we shall

never forget it. To morrow's dawn shall behold us on the way to meet this convoy, and to morrow night shall see us at the walls of Zurich, where our prowess shall be felt more than it has yet been known. But tell us Henrick, what has occured since we quitted your house on that eventful day, which had well nigh proved so fatal to us?"

Henrick, thus called upon, commenced his narrative. "As soon as you left my house, yesterday, I felt strange misgivings within me, and wished that I had not gained you admission into a scene of so much danger; for I considered it a thousand chances if you were not discovered and put into confinement; and if so, I was well aware that your immediate death would be the consequence, and that the cause of my country would thus be irretrievably ruined. I

remained in a sad state of agitation sor some time; until unable to restrain my curiosity and anxiety any longer, I set off to the neighbourhood of the castle in the hope of gathering some information which might set my mind at rest. When I came to this spot, my apprehensions increased astonishingly, as I perceived a considerable crowd gathering round the gate, and, on inquiring into the cause, I was almost struck to the earth with terror, on learning that three Swiss traitors, as you were called, had been discovered in the castle, and apprehended in the apartment of the daughter of the Governor. My son had also been seized, since he had been seen in company with the strangers, and was supposed to be in the secret of their intentions, which every one declared, could be nothing less than the murder of the Governor. While

I stood, in a state of terrible perplexity, unable to decide whether I should remain on the spot, until I could gather further information, or fly under the fear of being apprehended, several soldiers rushed out of the castle, in great haste and consternation, exclaiming—"they have escaped, except one, quick, to the mountain, and let us cut off their retreat, or destruction awaits us." The joy which this news instilled into my breast, was too great for expression; I was afraid my looks would betray me, and I concealed my countenance with my hands, until my emotions had somewhat subsided. When I once more began calmly to reflect, fears again assailed me. I had not heard who was the unfortunate man that had been detained: it might be Ulric; and this thought was a source of bitter agony to me, I boldly rushed

into the castle, being well known to the soldiers on guard, under pretence of learning some particulars respecting the criminality of my son; but, in passing the Governor's apartment, I was arrested in my progress by the sight of the gallant Riesbach being led into the presence of the Governor. "Then Ulric is safe," I ejaculated in a low murmuring voice, and, forgetful of every thing else, I was about to retrace my steps, when I encountered some soldiers who were conducting my son to prison, until inquiry should be made into his guilt or innocence. "You are innocent, Henrick," said I, in a loud voice, "who can suspect you of any attachment to the Swiss? 'Tis cruel to send you to prison, you, whose long fidelity and attention deserve a treatment of such a different nature; you who received the stroke of the assassin's

steel when he attempted the life of your master, and had nearly lost your life for your attachment (for such had been the case. The Governor was attacked one morning, when Henrick suddenly entering the passage rushed between the assassin and his object, and received the stroke in his own shoulder. The man attempted to fly, but was prevented and put to death. Would that he had succeeded!) is it thus that you are to be recompensed?" —Henrick sighed as he answered— "Grieve not, my father, my innocence will soon be re-established, and you will have no cause to blush for your son. The Governor has been led to suspect me, through the wicked contrivances of my enemies, but he knows too well the nature and the extent of my services to decide hastily against me. Although I go to prison to day, I shall leave it again with triumph,

when the fever which has seized upon the mind of my master shall have subsided, and reason once more resumes her sway in his breast. He is too great and too good to commit injustice against a faithful servant, and he knows me to be such"—"I pray Heaven it may be so, my son," I replied, "for nothing would tend to sink me into the grave sooner than the idea that you had been condemned for a dishonorable act, without being allowed the privilege of asserting and proving you own innocence." The soldiers could not permit any longer conversation, but the officer, as I had intended, was struck with the distress of my son and myself; and as he was a friend of Henrick's he immediately reported the substance of our conversation to the Governor, with such remarks upon the services of the prisoner, that an order for the release

of Henrick was made out in the same hour, and he was again at liberty. I had scarcely reached my own home, when this grateful news reached me, I congratulated myself on the dexterity with which we had managed our parts. In a few hours afterwards, Henrick came to me, and we mutually exulted in the success of our scheme. "But father," said he, in a sorrowful tone," are you aware that the gallant Swiss, who is a prisoner, is about to be tried this very evening, and it is expected that his execution will take place to morrow morning, for the Governor is terribly afraid that the bands of the mountain will make some desperate attempt to rescue him, and he has determined to frustrate their effects, by putting the poor fellow to death."

"And is there no way to help him to escape?" I asked, while I trem-

bled terribly when I considered of the almost impossibility of rendering him any service. "I know of butone," replied Henrick, "and in that we cannot interfere. My mistress seems to be much interested in the fate of the prisoner, and from some parts of her conduct, I am almost inclined to think that she intends to try what she can do for him. But I will watch her conduct narrowly, since I know you feel a great interest in the event, and will see you again this evening." Henrick was as good as his word; just as it grew dark, he was again with me. "The trial is over," he said, "and sentence of death has been passed upon Riesbach, who is to be executed to-morrow morning, The Governor was greatly irritated by the undaunted behaviour of the prisoner, and the contemptuous manner in which he

smiled, when the menaces of his enemies, as to the tortures he should bear, sounded in his ears. But madam Lucette was afterwards brought before the same tribunal, and is ordered to be confined in a nunnery for life, in consequence of the part she has taken in the escape of the other Swiss. She is, however, I am positively sure, about to make an effort for the deliverance of Riesbach this night, for I observed her packing her jewels and getting together whatever of value belongs to her, which she can conveniently carry away. She is not so cautious before me, as she is acquainted with my good wishes towards the Swiss, a circumstance which has made her kinder to me since her return from the mountain than before."

Such was the information which Henrick brought me, and I was thus

prepared for the news of the next morning, that Riesbach and the daughter of the Governor had made their escape from the castle, during the night; and that the Swiss had dangerously wounded a centinel who had endeavoured to check their progress. I was now alarmed lest the fugitives might be overtaken, for soldiers had passed the gates in pursuit, long before day; and I was aware that no exertion would be spared to regain possession of them. The Governor, enraged beyond any former pitch, was so violent and outrageous that no one dared to approach him, and when the officer who had commanded the troops sent to search for those who had fled, appeared in his presence, to inform him of the ill successs which had attended his efforts, the only reply he received was a violent blow from

the sheathed sabre of his master, which felled him to the earth. About noon, however, arrived the messenger with the welcome news of the approach of reinforcements, and this circumstance reconciled the Governor to the severe disappointment which he had experienced. He instantly vowed to concentrate his powers and to crush the mountain band, by one vigorous and exterminating effort; he declared his resolution to sacrifice them all indiscriminately to his fury, in order to revenge himself, in the most summary manner, for the many insults he had been compelled to endure. Preparations were ordered to be instantly made for the reception of the stores and men which were on their way, and it was determined to close the gates of the town this evening, and not to allow any egress afterwards,

until the whole of the supplies were safely arrived ; in order that no communication might be made to the mountain band. All these particulars I received through my son Henrick who came off to me the moment he received the information. "If you wish to serve your friends," said he, "hasten to put them in possession of this intelligence before the orders are issued for the closing of the gates; since, after that period, it will be useless for you to attempt to elude the vigilance of the centinels. The resolution of the Governor is now wound up to the highest pitch; and if some more prompt measures than those which he meditates are not adopted by the Swiss there will be a sanguinary conflict in a few days, and I fear that the forces of the mountains will be insufficient to resist effectually the troops which will

be brought against them." I thanked Henrick for his information, and, without a moment's hesitation, took my bow and lance, and put on my hunting dress, to quit the town while in my power, "Whither do you go?" said one of the centinels, who had already received orders to be cautious of allowing persons to pass out of the town—"I go to hunt the chamois," was my reply —"You cannot pass, unless you were on urgent business," returned the soldier—I instantly re-answered —"I mingle business and pleasure; it is true I go to hunt the chamois, as you may perceive by my garb; but I also go to Berne, to recover some property which is left to me, and which I shall lose, if I do not appear within a certain time." This answer, backed by the gift of a-rix dollar which I put into his.

band, gained my purpose, and the gates were instantly free for my passage. I pursued my way rapidly, and met with no interruption until I fell in with your band. It was fortunate for me that I encountered them; since, ignorant as I was of the precise situation of the cavern, I might have wandered many hours without being able to discover you. In my anxiety, however, to convey to you the intelligence, I took not into consideration the difficulties I might have to encounter in my search for you; and fortune has aided me, by enabling me to fall into your way without any trouble or superfluous loss of time"

Henrick had given his narrative in the presence of the whole band; and Ulric, in whose bosom it had re-kindled the noblest emotions, improved the moment by instilling into

the minds of his soldiers, the necessity of prompt exertions in order to counteract the intentions of their enemies, and to secure the emancipation of their country. "My friends," said he, "to-morrow night shall yet behold us at the gates of Zurich; we must not slumber, when tyranny is awake; we must not pause when the foes of Switzerland are on the alert. If we delay until another night, we may have sad cause to rue the procrastination. Eighteen thousand swords will leap from their scabbards, and accuse us of indolence and supineness; and our posterity may have to exclaim— "But for the inactivity of our fathers we might have been free." Let us be cautious not to deserve such a reproach; we have hitherto been vigilant and prompt, let vigilance and promptitude mark our

subsequent conduct, and ultimate victory will be our's."

The address was received with the accustomed applause which the Switzers were used to accord to the animating language of their leader. Ap Gryff and the other chieftains cordially assented to the new arrangement of Ulric, which was rendered necessary by the intelligence they had received. It was also decided, that in conformation with the advice of Henrick, the band should be put in motion, an hour or two before the dawn, in order to intercept the stores, which were on their way to the garrison of Zurich. Henrick was easily prevailed upon to remain with the Swiss, and unite his efforts to their's, in order to accomplish the object which all equally sought after. When these different arrangements were completed, the

mountaineers retired to rest in the rough recesses of the cavern.

But solitude and silence brought back to the mind of Ulric the fleeting visions of past days. He reflected on the uncertainty which involved the fate of his beloved Florida, and the more he endeavoured to account for it, the less was he able to satisfy himself respecting it. One thing, however, was the subject of consolation to him: she was not again in the power of the Austrian Governor. This was evident, from the silence which Henrick had preserved respecting her; so that all the pursuits which had been instituted after her and her father had, of course, failed of success. It was probable, therefore, that they might have reached some asylum, where they might be concealed from their enemies, until they could, with

more safety, venture to explore their uncertain way to the cave of the mountain. This idea was the first which conveyed any hope to the mind of Ulric; and, as he found a degree of consolation in it, he determined to cherish it, and to cling to it, until he should find it no longer tenable. Every thing which held out the probability of the safety of Florida, was too grateful to the feelings of Ulric, to be refused admission into his breast, and there was rational gound for hope that they might have adopted the measure which had suggested itself to his imagination. He wished to ascertain the truth of his hopes, without delay, and he was almost inclined to curse the expedition appointed for the morning, because it would place it out of his power to repair to the Priory of Chamouny,

which he thought the most probable seat of their retreat. To another he resolved not to trust the important mission on which so much of his happiness depended; and he therefore resigned himself to the protection of his object, until the town had been taken. "Then," said he, mentally, "I will go boldly, and confidently, to restore the hopes and the freedom of her for whom life only is valuable. If she be in Chamouny, I will convey to her the happy tidings of the successful termination of my hopes: and of the foundation of the liberties of my country. Then I may claim the meed of my exertions, and find happiness with my Florida." These happy prospects soon gained such an ascendancy over his mind, as to banish every other idea; he was no longer apprehensive and desponding,

and the beams of the morning had burst the opacity of the cave before he could dismiss the pleasing reflections.

The bustle of preparation, however, soon dissipated the dreams of love, which had seized possession of the mind of Ulric, and he arose hastily and placed himself at the head of his troop, and, before the dawn had half perfected itself, the whole band was marching down the mountain towards the quarter whence the convoy was expected to arrive. Secretly they kept on their way, eluding the vicinity of the town, lest their march should be discovered, a circumstance which they by no means dreaded, but which would have had a tendency to disorder the plans of Ulric, and therefore was not to be wished for. The rising sun beheld them quitting the first

ridge of mountains, and descending into long vallies, interspersed with cottages, flocks, goats and shepherds, which enlivened the scene; and gave it a degree of interest which was now almost a stranger to the bosom of Ulric. He took the precaution to dispatch officers before him to dissipate any terrors which might arise in the breasts of the inhabitants, on the approach of such a large and unexpected force; and, instead of being shunned, he had the satisfaction to find his men received with a welcome, provided with food, and his numbers swelled by the enterprising youths of the plains. At noon the whole band reposed in the centre of a spacious plain, and the villages around speedily joined them, with refreshments. The maidens carried fruits and flowers; the old men brought their sons to unite

themselves in the cause of their country, and the whole army appeared one common family of the happy. Ap Gryff, in return for the kindness of the peasantry, unslung his harp, and drew forth the most ravishing melodies, while the astonished multitude crowded around him, electrified with wonder and delight.

There was no necessity for fatiguing the troops by long marches. The convoy must approach their destination by the road which the band now occupied or commanded, and Ulric determined to rest here until the shades of night, should render the appearance of the supplies more probable. Some hours had yet to elapse, and as Ap Gryff tuned his harp to the sprightly air; the smiling maidens expressed a desire to join in the lively dance. A ring was

formed round which sat the soldiers, who chose to remain as spectators, and the old peasants, while the youths of both sexes joined in the amusement. Then those hands which had just grasped the bow and the lance, led the willing maidens through the mazy motions of the dance, the shout of defiance and the song of war were laid aside for the tones of delightful merriments, and the genius of war did not presume to interrupt the general happiness with his frown. Until the day had diminished considerably, the sports continued; when Ulric arose from his seat, and applying his horn to his lips, blew a blast loud and piercing. The harp instantly ceased its melodies, the soldiers seized their weapons, the old men and maidens returned to their homes, and the army was marshalled in the expecta-

tion of the speedy approach of the desirable convoy, which was to reward their vigilance.

They waited not long in vain; the soldiers who had been sent out to watch for the arrival of the supplies, came in with the intelligence that they were then marching down the mountains in their front, and would come in contact with the band in half an hour. "Then this is the moment to strike the first decisive stroke for the emancipation of our country," said Ulric, while the listening band paused to hear him, "These supplies secured, even if our further efforts were for the present frustrated, where could the multiplied forces of the enemy find subsistence? We have swept the haunts of the chamois; the flocks of the mountains have been slaughtered for our subsistence; and they have

themselves drained the resources of the vallies. They must be reduced therefore, to the utmost extremities of distress. At this hour, Zurich boasts not a week's provisions for its present garrison; where will it find the means of sustaining nature, when their mouths are more than trebled. Let the convoy fall into our hands, and a grand stroke has been made with effect."

When he had thus addressed the band, he called the leaders about him, and detailed to them his intended plan of attack. One division of half the army, was to remain stationary, under his own command, to check the progress of the convoy. Riesbach and Ap Gryff, with each two thousand men, were dispatched, by circuitous routes, to come upon the rear of the right and left flanks of the convoy, and Larlach and the

commander of the Schaffhausen band, were stationed in two roads, on the right and the left of Ulric, through which part of the convoy might have escaped to Zurich. Thus was every pass blocked, and the army of the mountain was prepared at all points for the reception of the Austrian escort and convoy,

The respective positions had scarcely been taken before the advance of the convoy appeared in front, and was vigorously assaulted by the division of the mountain chief; and the fury of the onset threw the enemy into the most complete confusion. They attempted by dispersing, to save some portion of the stores but the detachments posted to the right and the left of the main body of Ulric's band, intersected their progress and frustrated their efforts. At the same instant, the

divisions of Ap Gryff and Riesbach made a tremendous attack upon the rear of the two flanks of the enemy, which completed their defeat. The soldiers, however, fought with no common courage: great was the charge which had been entrusted to them, and bravely did they acquit themselves of their duty. They remained close to the stores as long as it was possible for them to retain their positions; sword to sword they contended; and bow twanged to bow; the missiles of destruction flew with fearful rapidity and precision, from rank to rank, destroying their hundreds, and making desolation expand itself far and wide. The impetuous bravery of the Swiss was met by a resistance the most firm and heroic which can be imagined; but every effort of the enemy ended in their own confusion.

The whole of the rich convoy fell into the hands of the conquerors, the escort having been entirely destroyed or made prisoners, so that none was left to carry the news of the battle to Zurich.

It was near the noon of night when the engagement was concluded, and the moon arose, when the tumult of the fight was over, as if curious to see what mischief had been done. Her silvery radiance shewed the slaughtered corses of the Austrian detachment, who, whatever was the injustice of the cause in which they had contended, had died gallantly, and deserved to be interred like heroes. The swords of the conquerors scooped out graves for their deceased enemies, and, in less than two hours, five-hundred German bodies were deposited in the bosom of th e valley which had

drank their blood. Silently and deliberately, the Swiss then retraced their steps to their own mountains, which they had gained, with the fruits of their victory, before the sun rose; and two hours before noon the whole of the supplies, and the prisoners, amounting to more than thirteen hundred, where lodged in the recesses of the cavern.

Lucette, who had been left in the cave, with a slight detachment for her security, had anxiously awaited the return of the warriors. She had felt some apprehensions lest Ulric might receive injury, yet whenever she asked herself the reason of her terrors, and divined their cause, she would say to herself—"What hast thou to do with Ulric? His heart is pledged to another, and that other is amiable, beautiful and noble; one of the same country, who is

doubtless worthy of his love? What hope then is there for thee?" Still, while she allowed that there was no hope for her, while her rival existed, she would still cherish the lively glimmer which broke the darkness of despondency, when she reflected on the possibility that Florida might be no more. From the soldiers left with her she had learned that their chief had been the victim of gloom, on account of the mysterious absence of his mistress, and had sent out detachments to search the caves and recesses of the mountains, but that every effort to discover her had completely failed. A glimpse of joy smiled through the melancholy of her countenance, as she heard this intelligence, but it was too faint to be perceptible to those who surrounded her, it imparted some pleasure to her own mind; although she felt

inclined to reproach herself, at the same moment, for a disposition to rejoice in the calamities which might fall upon the innocent and the virtuous. But even if Ulric should recover his Florida, and their union should take place, something whispered to her heart that she might find a substitute, by no means disagreeable in the gallant and attentive Riesbach. She was banished from her home; she had alienated herself from her country, by her attachment to its enemies, and she must therefore spend the residue of her days amongst those with whom she had endeavoured to co-operate. She saw in Riesbach much which she could love; a nobleness of soul and sentiment which was not prevalent amongst the Austrian youths; a gallantry towards her, and a degree of heroic fortitude in the midst of dan-

ger, which rendered him extremely amiable in her eyes. Yet while a hope remained of an union with Ulric, she resolved not to think of Riesbach, but in case she should be disappointed in her views upon the commander, she made up her mind to accept the services of the other chieftain, who appeared to be particularly attached to her.

The eyes of Lucette sparkled with pleasure as she congratulated the chieftain on his victory, and the importance of its effects, but she felt a momentary pang, when she beheld the thirteen hundred of her own country men, conducted as prisoners, into a part which had been divided from the cavern, by hugh layers of rock and earth, for their reception. The gloomy sentiment, however, vanished when she saw the kind consideration which was ex-

tended to the prisoners by their conquerors, and called to mind the humanity with which she had been treated, when she was herself in the power of the gallant mountaineers.

Ulric received her compliments, and beheld the interest which she felt in the fate of her countrymen, beaming in her eyes. "Were it for your sake alone, madam, (said he) these captives should experience the utmost kindness and attention. Your services to us demand such recompence. But there is a higher call which renders even your interference in their behalf superfluous, and that is the imperious call of humanity. Why should we avenge ourselves upon these for the injuries we have received from their commanders. ? They only act from compulsion; they are led to the commission of acts, from which, prehaps, their own feelings revolt;

but they have no remedy, they cannot evade that obedience which would be extorted by force, in case of contumacy. They have behaved like heroes, and like heroes shall they be treated: the fortune of war and their own scarcity of numbers, have thrown them into our power, and we shall treat them according so their deserts—they deserve well of us. As to our own success, it is less to be attributed to my prudence or courage, than to the gallant chiefs and soldiers who surround me. They have won the palm of victory, and it is to them, madam, that you should address your congratulations; their promptitude, their vigilance and their impetuosity performed every thing; I did nothing; they left nothing for me to perform, but to give to them the full measure of my gratitude, which they so justly deserved."

The Austrians, who had heard the modest and generous language of the Swiss commander, felt themselves penetrated by the utmost respect and veneration for his character; and, with one consent, offered themselves to fight under his banner—"Sir," said the officer, who made the proposition, at the request of his followers, "we have long revolted in our own minds against the numerous arts of oppression which have been exercised against your countrymen, but what our better judgment condemned, our power to resist was weak. We have seen the invasion of your rights by our own rulers and the Burgundians with feelings of infinite regret, and the name of Tell is held in the highest veneration amongst us. Accept our services, Sir, and here on our swords, and by the name of the blessed virgin, will we

swear universal and eternal fidelity to your cause. We will not return to our country; you can give us the privileges of Switzers, if we deserve them, and we will mingle ourselves among you, and become the same people."

Ulric looked upon his chiefs, and perceiving by their countenances that they were indecisive how to act, he replied that the desires of the Austrians should be taken into consideration, and with this, he dismissed them to the part of the cave which was destined for their reception, and calling his officers around him, he began to sound their sentiments respecting the proposition of their enemies.

"I do not place much confidence," said Larlach, "in the professions of fidelity which are made by men who have deserted their country. With

less reason, they might a second time turn traitors to the cause which they have espoused; and that in the hour when their services might be most necessary. If I might advise, I should almost incline to propose that the prisoners be still kept as such, and not be entrusted with arms which they may, on the first occasion, turn against those who have given them into their possession. While we fight for the cause of Switzerland, let the arms which are elevated in her behalf be these of her own children. Yet I would not that my counsel be rashly acted on; let others of more wisdom and experience decide."

"Austrians may act from principle;" said Ap Gryff, "and why should we discredit the assertions of men who profess that they desert the standard of tyranny from a hatred of its nature. They have been passive instruments,

and that from necessity; they may become active adherents, when their choice is allowed the freedom of scope. Why should we fear to entrust them with arms; when we are in such strong numbers, and can so easily punish defaulters. Let them be placed in a situation where they cannot flinch, without drawing upon themselves the immediate vengance of those whom they have deceived."

Riesbach joined in opinion with Ap Gryff. "Let the defalcation be ckecked the moment it shall appear," said he; "nay, if but one Austrian should betray a wish to become unfaithful, let the whole be instantly disarmed, before the disposition shall have time to spread itself to the rest. Disaffection in a contagious principle, and will soon, from one, communicate its infection to a thousand. We are eighteen thousand Switzers,

and surely in any extremity, it will scarcely be in the power of thirteen hundred Germans to turn from us the tide of victory. If they should turn their arms against us, and the same blood which animates me flows in the veins of my comrades, their traitorous conduct would but rouze us to new action and new vigour; and the sudden deficiency of numbers which we should experience would speedily be out done by the vast addition of furious indignation which would nerve each Switzer's arm, and give new strength to his hatred against his foes."

Lucette had listened hitherto with great anxiety to mark the course which the discussion would take; and she felt a secret uneasiness in her bosom, when she had heard the imputations which the impetuous Larlach had cast upon the honour of her countrymen.

Her agitation, however, had been materially diminished by the more liberal sentiments of Ap Gryff, of whose power over the mind of Ulric she was fully aware, and when Riesbach followed, in the same track, she imagined she had never justly appreciated his value until the present moment. He appeared doubly amiable in her eyes, from the heroism, mingled with generosity, which was conspicuous in his whole manner and conversation; and she suffered the idea to dwell for an instant, in her mind, that he was not unworthy to succeed his heroic commander in her affections. Her emotions had not escaped the eye of Riesbach, who, as he ceased speaking his sentiments, turned to her, and added "Cannot Lucette advance any thing in favor of her countrymen?"

Lucette felt the full force of the

appeal, and, with a determined mind, overcame the timidity which had hitherto held her in silence, and replied "Yes, noble Riesbach; she will answer for their fidelity to your cause at the risk of her own life. I know that there are thousands of Austrian soldiers, who will embrace the first opportunity to shew their hatred of the cause in which they are embarked. I know that there are many, even about the person of the Governor, who would not hesitate to throw off their allegiance to him, were it not for the fear of exposing themselves to punishment. Ah! Switzerland has many friends amongst the German soldiers, many who would shed their blood in her cause, if, by that sacrifice, they could ensure her emancipation; but who will have the courage to become her advocate, where

the rulers have declared themselves her enemies? Try my countrymen, gallant chieftains, before you condemn them, and I will be the voluntary hostage for their fidelity and their courage."

Ulric, who had, before the language held forth by Lucette had reached his ears, wavered in his resolution; now felt himself at once decided how to act; but he restrained his sentiments within his own bosom, until he had heard what Father Ursulô would say on the subject, upon whom he called lastly for his opinion.

"I clearly lean to the side of the Germans," replied the benevolent chief; "for we should be unjust, if we threw upon them a load of unmerited censure; and we cannot surely refuse so fair an hostage as the daughter of the Austrian Governor.

Let arms be put into the hands of the prisoners, after they have taken a solemn oath of fidelity, and let them be enrolled amongst the band of the mountains. We have nothing to fear from their treachery; we may derive service from their fidelity. When the Austrians we oppose shall see their own companions arrayed against them; the circumstance may produce beneficial effects upon them; they also may be tempted to forsake an unjust cause, and to come over to us. Let not a momentary panic induce us to reject their services, which a momentary reflection would rather lead us to accept. Be as cautious as you please, but mix a spirit of liberality with your caution."

"I am convinced," resumed Larlach, who, at the commencement, had advised the rejection of the offer of the Austrians—"I am convinced

that my advice was not sound, since it resulted from the impetuosity of the moment, and is hostile to any dispasionate reason. Let them be admitted into the band and let us all be brothers, until we have cause to act otherwise."

This generous recantation of his error, drew upon the Bernese the universal applause of his fellow chiefs, and Ulric immediately expressed his resolution to act according to the wishes of his friends, "which," said he, "in every respect, correspond with my own. I had previously inclined to favour their request, and I am now the more fully confirmed in my disposition." As he said this, he called the prisoners from their part of the cave, and informed them that their services would be accepted, on condition that they took a solemn oath

of fidelity to the cause in which they were about to embark: "and," he added, "for the due performance of this solemn contract, Lucette, the daughter of the Governor of Zurich, has pledged herself, and voluntarily resigned herself a hostage. If you are treacherous, a signal punishment will fall upon your heads, and eighteen thousand swords will be drawn from their scabbards to revenge such an atrocious act of perfidy! If you agree to the condition, you will receive your arms, and become a part of the band."

"Is there an Austrian present who will hesitate to take the required oath?" asked the chief officer amongst the prisoners: "Is there one who will refuse to place himself under the command of so generous a chief, or to unite in so upright a cause? If there is any one who in-

clines to deviate from the common wish, let him step out, and declare himself, that he may remain a prisoner, until the hour of his deliverance shall arrive. I place a restraint upon none, let every man act as he shall see fit."

Not a man advanced; not a dissenting voice was heard; but, after a pause of some minutes, during which the Austrians gazed silently upon each other. An unniversal shout burst from them, which stunned their conquerors, and was immediately succeeded by the cries of "Switzerland and liberty to the sons of the mountains." "Long life and success to the brave Ulric, who so well deserves it." "The recovery of their rights to the gallant and brave descendants of the never-to-be-forgotten Tell."

Ulric ordered the band to be drawn

out on the summit of the mountain which ascended above the cavern; in the midst of them were placed the thirteen hundred Austrians. The officer of the emancipated prisoners received the oath from Ulric and repeated it to his soldiers. "By the Blessed Virgin, the Holy Mother of Christ, by our hopes of absolution here from all our sins, and of salvation hereafter, we swear fidelity to the cause and the soldiers of Switzerland! As we shall preserve inviolably our obligation, so may Heaven deal with us henceforward; and may the moment which beholds our desertion of the standards of Switzerland, bring with it the punishment of our treachery—a death instant, cruel, and merited. May the soil, on which we shall betray any symptoms of disaffection, be the spot, where we shall lay down our lives,

and may our bodies remain for meat, and our blood for drink, to the beasts which may wander thither, and the birds which may wing their flight over the scene of slaughter!"

The whole of the Austrians, with bended knees, took the oath, repeating it after their officer: and when the whole was concluded, they were greeted to the fellowship of the mountain band by the loud plaudits of their new and gallant comrades. Their swords and lances, and their bows were returned to them, and the first use which they made of their weapons, was to ratify upon their glittering sabres, the sacred obligation which they had already taken upon themselves. In divisions of fifties, they crossed their swords, and, bending over them, exclaimed—"May these, our own

weapons, become the instruments of our destruction, whenever we betray the least inclination to swerve from the oath which we have already taken." As they concluded, they struck their swords together, and the clash resembled the concussion of armies.

When this ceremony was closed, the band returned to the cave, and as the evening mists were already rising throughout the mountains, Ulric gave orders that preparations should be made for the intended attack upon Zurich. "This very night," said he, in a voice of animation, for the loss of his Florida had for a moment absented itself from his recollection; "this very night shall prove an important era in the history of the emancipation of our country. Our swords must penetrate the gates of the town, before they are again pe-

netrated by the beams of the morning; and the rising of the sun must behold the banners of Switzerland waving over the walls, and fluttering from all the towers of Zurich. Our attack must be sudden, impetuous, determined, and decisive. Victory alone must stay our efforts."

CHAPTER XIV.

An hour before the departure of the band on its daring enterprize, Ulric laid his plan for the attack of the town before his chiefs. Father Ursulo was ordered with four thousand men to attack the southern gate. Ap Gryff was to be detached, with an equal force to the middle gate. Ulric and Riesbach with seven thousand men were to make an assault upon the main postern: and the Bernese and Schaffhausen chiefs were to attack a low part of the walls to the northward of the whole, which was at all times weakly defended, and

which might easily be scaled. The signal of the attack was to be the tolling of the midnight hour, when, at the same instant, the enterprize was to be carried into execution in all quarters, so that the enemy was not only to be astonished by the suddenness, but perplexed by the variety of the assaults. As the moon did not rise until morning, there was little reason to fear lest the approach of the band should be discovered. All the chiefs concurred in the proposed arrangement; and every one entertained a confident hope of the most successful result. Joyful were the countenances of the warriors, sorrow and anxiety no longer sat upon every brow, but hope and expectation were enthroned in their room. The clashing of arms, and the hurry of preparation were heard throughout the cave, and at the appointed moment

every warrior shone completely armed for the fierce contest.

The nature of the enterprize was such that Lucette could not be allowed to mingle in the danger, and when Ulric displayed a degree of irresolution as to her disposal until the issue of the conflict should be known, she came forward, and entreated that her safety might be deemed but a secondary consideration. She could remain alone in the cavern, without fear of danger, and when the toil of battle was ended, and the palm of victory won, Ulric could send a soldier to conduct her to those scenes which she should thus be enabled to re-visit in safety. The chief was gratified with the heroism of her conduct and sentiments, and felt no difficulty in acceding to her request; and thus did Lucette impose upon the credulity of the Swiss, and

obtain time and leisure for the execution of a project at once daring and astonishing in its nature.

"Now, comrades, for our grand enterprize," said Ulric, as he led his men out of the cavern, and divided them into the appointed detachments, as the last glimmer of the day lingered in the horizon—"Now, let us be mindful of the importance of the cause in which we fight. We contend for no trivial object; but upon the issue of this night's enterprize depends the future liberty or slavery of Switzerland. Prepare your resolution and your strength for a resistance greater than any you have hitherto experienced: the Austrians will not readily relinquish a prize which it has already cost them so dear to retain. You have given them fatal proofs of your prowess in times past; their unburied bodies

still remain and moulder on many a spot where ye slew them. Give them new evidence to night of the strength of your exertions, and let them learn a last lesson, not less dreadful than those they have before received from you, of the justice that nerves your arms. Bid your swords strike with the rapidity of lightening; hurl your haughty oppressors from the eminences on which they have exalted themselves; but in the midst of triumph remember mercy; let the cries of those who have fallen beneath your vigour check the slaughtering sword; and let the hand of humanity supply the wants of those who are on the eve of perishing, although circumstances have made you enemies. Now then, for our march; may the Virgin, and all the blessed saints go with us; and let *Switzerland and Liberty* be an universal cry."

"The address was heard with silence, and Switzerland and liberty," was instantly re-echoed from all the mountains mind. The ardour of the chief seemed to have communicated itself rapidly to his soldiers, and every bosom swelled with exultation. Far to the right of the accustomed path, a narrow glen wound down between the glaciers; and thither the army traced its way, hid from mortal view by the towering ridges which shelved into the defile, and almost hid from view the stormy firmament above. Without a sound except that which arose from the regular movement of their feet, and the hollow murmur of the breeze which moaned to find its passage thus obstructed on either side; without a whisper or a word, except those which were necessary for the direction of the moving body, they kept on their

way, until the defile expanded into a spacious plain, which stretched itself far and wide at the foot of the mountains. Here the whole troop paused for a few moments, while the divisions separated and marched in four vast columns towards the town.

They had now arrived within half an hour's march of the walls. "Here," said Ulric, "we must separate; for our various destinations. Let our friends repair to the points of attack, with the utmost stillness, and lay under the walls, until the midnight bell shall sound the signal of contention. When the last stroke has caught the breeze, let your efforts be instantaneous and impetuous; and we shall soon meet within the walls. Our coalition in the town, will be the pledge that the deliverance of Zurich is accomplished."

Father Ursulo and Ap Gryff immediately bent their course to the southward, towards the gates which were to receive the violence of their attack, and the Burnese and Schaffhausenburghers stretched still further to the northward, than did the main body of the band, which, conducted by Ulric and Riesbach, paced slowly towards the principle postern, on which was situated the castle of the Governor. Ranged under the walls Ulric made his men lie close to the ground, the more effectually to screen them from the observation of the centinels, whose watch-words, as they passed along the ramparts, at their stated intervals, were distinctly heard by the mountaineers who couched in silence, underneath the unsuspicious guards.

It was an awful pause. Ulric recalled to his mind the ravagesof de-

parted days, as he leaned on his lance, and breathed new sighs to the mysterious fate of his Florida. Then would the visions of love fly before the sterner front of war; the sanguinary walls, the embattled field, the gates now forced by the shock of the assailants, and now re-closed by the determination of the besieged, the falling towers, broken turrets, precipitated masses dragged from their situations by the numbers who had trusted to their treacherous support, and burying beneath them whole heaps of the mangled and the dead; these were the horrid phantoms which now, in their turn presented themselves to his imagination. He beheld, in fancy's mirror, the rush of contending armies, loud and fierce as the stupendous cataracts which astonish and stun the peasants of the remoter Alps; he heard, in idea,

the clash of hostile swords, the collision of lances, the shout of defiance, the murmurs of indignation, the cries of the wounded, and the pæan of victory. More than once he started from his reverie, and poised his lance, as if undetermined whether the scene he had painted, was the picture of fiction or reality; then, again, would he immerge into the profundity of thoughtfulness, and lose the recollection of his situation. Thus did he occupy the intervening moments, while at his side stood the gallant Riesbach, surveying with attentive eye, the height of the walls, the apparent strength of the massive portals, and the few scattered soldiers which were thinly dispersed along the ramparts, and shewed the scantiness of the strength to which was entrusted the custody and defence of such an important post. He too was en-

gaged ever and anon, in anticipating the horrors of the approaching fight, and in calculating upon the beneficial effects which would result to his country, from the bold, and hitherto well executed scheme of his noble friend and commander. The soldiers stretched round him were occupied, some in slumber and some in watchfulness; some whetted their own courage, and gave new vigour to their heroism, by calling to mind the justice of their cause, and such like incentives; others repeated in faint whispers their vesperal songs to the virgin; while others called to mind the outrages which had been committed on their liberties, by the German tyrants who had assumed the mastery over them, and ruled them with a rod of iron, which was increasing in hardness and bulk every day. The only sound which dis-

turbed the silence of the scene, was that which proceeded from a distant cascade, whence the inhabitants of the town were accustomed to draw water, and the faint rushing of which, like the sound of a spent wind, scarcely disturbed the repose of the night. No bird flitted on the wing, no beast wandered in the track of the army of the mountain, the chamois, the hare and the fox, were in their coverts, and the wild fowls of the mountain, scared by the gloomy horrors of the night, had retired to their rest.

On a sudden, majestically floating upon the breeze, swelled the deep tunes of the midnight hour. The warning was repeated by the centinels on the walls, and at the instant that the last stroke had chimed, loud shouts from the north and louder from the south conveyed to the ears of the anxious Ulric, who had rouzed from

his reverie at the sound of the pre-concerted signal, the grateful intelligence that his directions had been implicitly attended to, that the important contention had commenced, that the swords of his countrymen were unsheathed, and the genius of destruction was abroad.

"This is the hour of our freedom or disgrace!"—exclaimed Ulric, in a tone of thunder—"Switzerland and liberty" was the universal reply, and, in an instant, a flight of arrows, aimed with the utmost precision, swept the ill-fated centinels from the walls. A tremendous attack was then made upon the strong portal by Ulric, while Riesbach led two thousand warriors up the deserted walls. By this time, however, the Austrians were sufficiently rouzed to see the exact nature of their situation, and, with the utmost resolution and alacrity, they rushed to their post to

stem the violence of their invaders Riesbach had just reached the summit of the walls with a few of his soldiers, when the enemy approached, and by a well directed flight of missiles killed or wounded most of the Swiss who had adventured within the reach of danger. The gallant chief himself felt an arrow glance along his side, and the blood followed the stroke, but the sight of his own hurt, which was not of sufficient importance to disable him from continuing the contest, only served to excite new indignation in the breast of Riesbach, and being, at that instant, reinforced by a new body of soldiers, he leaped into the town, and spread destruction amongst the ranks of his enemies.

In the mean time the often-repeated and impetuous attack of Ulric on the gate, though resisted by as strong a force as could be brought from the resources of the enemy, had produ-

ced the desired effect. The force and determination of the gallant Swiss were not to be counteracted by the efforts of a few weak soldiers, whose hearts were not interested in the cause, for which they contended. In the heat of the contest the attention of Ulric was directed to the bravery and affection of a young soldier who fought close by his side, and warded from him every blow which menaced his safety. This unknown was the first to rush forward, and the last to give way before any attack; he had performed prodigies of valour, and had so entirely won the favor of his commander that, during a transient pause of the fight, the latter drew a ring from his finger, and giving it to the Swiss, desired him when all was again tranquil to ask his own reward for his intrepidity. The youth pressed the gift of his chief gratefully to

his lips, and, placing it on his finger, again re-immerged himself in the fight, and continued to defend his commander, and strike terror into his enemies, until the forsaken portal, unable to resist any further efforts, fell with a terrible crash from its hinges, and gave a free opening to the troops of Ulric, just as Riesbach had entered into an unequal contest with the Austrians, within the walls of the town, and was endeavouring to defend a force much superior to his own.

The union of the two detachments, however, was hailed by a shout which sent dismay into the breasts of the Austrians, and revived the almost desponding hopes of the followers of Riesbach. The contention was renewed with fresh vigour by the reanimated Swiss, while the astonished and paralysed Germans began to betray symptoms of fear and dismay,

At this moment a new detachment of Austrian troops rushed from the castle, headed by the Governor himself, and threw their influence into the scale. This additional force gave a momentary preponderance to the power of the enemy, but it was only momentary, for the Swiss, enraged to find themselves on the point of being foiled, summoned to their aid a new determination, and with the fury of tigers returned to the conflict with a shout which rent the skies. The first dawn of the morning found the contest again on the point of being decided. Victory, after hovering with uncertain wing, over each army alternately, at length flew over to the mountaineers, and the Austrians, fatigued and thinned by their continued exertions, gave way at all points, and fled through the streets of the town, in the hope of finding some of

their comrades ready to support them in a new stand.

"Now my comrades," cried Ulric, pointing to the flying enemy, "now is the moment for exertion. You have done nobly hitherto; pursue your victory with the same spirit which has given it to you; and every thing will be speedily won. The dawn glimmers over the mountains, and day hastens to our assistance, to lead us to new glory; to light us to still more glorious achievements."

The words of the chief diffused new vigour into the bosoms of his followers—"Lead on to victory!" shouted the whole army in a single voice, and Ulric complied with the general request, and with the utmost promptitude and alacrity sped through the streets, which shewed the last fugitives of the flying enemy, endeavouring to reach their more fortunate and fleet comrades.

At this moment the numbers of the main body were swelled by the arrival of the warriors of Bern and Schaffhausen, who, after much opposition, had succeeded in completely annihilating the force which had been arrayed against them, and now arrived to assist their companions in further deeds, and to win new laurels. The enthusiastic ardour of the mountaineers was resuscitated by this conjunction, and they rushed forward, full of new confidence, to complete the enterprize which had been so successfully begun.

In the mean time Ap Gryff had found himself strongly opposed at the middle gate, to which he had been detached. The warriors had, by some means, been discovered by the centinels on the walls, a few minutes only before the midnight bell had tolled; and the alarm hav-

ing been given in that part of the town immediately, some troops had been collected to prevent a resistance to the attack which was expected. Ap Gryff beheld the multiplication of the guards, and instantly divined the true cause of this preparation; he accordingly, prepared his arrangements, and when the first stroke of the chimes smote his ear, he impatiently urged his men to the contest, in order that the enemy might not have new leisure to complete his preparations. The attack upon the gate was tremendous, but the resistance was firm and powerful, and the gallant Switzers found themselves severely annoyed by the arrows of the soldiers who were posted along the ramparts. To counteract the effects of this attack, a division was appointed to clear the walls of the enemy, and with such speed and

precision did they execute the task assigned to them, that, in a very short space of time, not an Austrian was to be seen along the whole line of the battlements. Still it was the dawn of the morning, before Ap Gryff could force an entrance into the gate; but just as the darkness began to dissipate, the portal was unhung by the vehement efforts of the assailants, and the sons of the mountain poured their strength into the town. The enemy, however had concentrated themselves behind strong defences, and seemed determined not to resign the palm of victory, without a more decisive defeat than that which they had just sustained. It was to no purpose that the Swiss annoyed their enemies with incessant attacks: owing to the situation of the Austrians, they were defended, in a great measure, from the destruc-

tion which was hurled at them, and the wasted efforts of the mountaineers had almost produced a temporary despondency, when the shouts of victory from the north burst upon their ears, and speedily afterwards the band of Ulric appeared sweeping the streets of their foes, and rushing to aid their friends.

The reinforcements arrived at the precise moment when it was most required, and its aid was soon efficaciously, felt, for the Austrians, attacked at all points, and by such a superiority of numbers, were only enabled to maintain their strong positions until sun rise, when they abandoned their entrenchments, and turning their backs on the Swiss, precipitately shaped their course to the remoter streets of the town, where Father Ursulo was successfully employed in pouring dismay and terror

through the feeble and scanty bands which were opposed to him. He had easily forced the southern postern, for the Austrians, expected nothing so little as an attack from that quarter, which was so remote from the mountains, that the Swiss, notwithstanding a very quick march had not reached it until within a few minutes of the midnight hour, had neglected to adopt even common precautions against surprize; and the only enemies which presented themselves to oppose the assailants, were a few old and invalid soldiers, who were stationed as centinels, armed with lances rather for shew than use, and who, on the first appearance of the Switzers, opened the gates, and compounded for their own security, by the desertion of their posts. Thus easily did Father Ursulo obtain admission into the

town; but some few Austrians, who had witnessed the pusillanimity of the centinels, had spread the news of the entry of the Swiss through the town, and a detachment of troops, from the tops of the houses, annoyed the mountaineers so excessively when they attempted to penetrate into the streets, that they found themselves compelled to halt in their progress, and to take measures for the removal of their antagonists before they could proceed. The hours of night were wasted in this effort; for, sheltered by the darkness, the Austrian soldiers were enabled to elude the arrows of the Swiss, and it was not until day light lent its aid that the mountaineers were able to perceive the exact situations of their foes, and to attack them with precision and a prospect of success. Victory then, no longer remained uncertain: the

enemy was driven from all quarters, and Father Ursulo led his detachment victoriously onward, driving before him the discomfited troops of Austria. Pent up between the Swiss divisions, which approximated every moment, the harassed Germans beheld their destruction as inevitable: already reduced to less than one half their original force, they had no longer hope of successfully resisting the impetuous torrents of patriotic indignation: they, accordingly, prepared themselves to sell their lives dearly, and in the hour of death, to raise themselves a monument which time should not decay.

Again the armies came in contact: again the missiles of the mountaineers spread dismay and death amongst their enemies: whose diminishing numbers scarcely resisted the violence of the attacks which were

made upon them. Still, however, incited by the Austrian Governor, who was at the head of the besieged, they obstinately refused to accept of the mercy which the benevolence of Ulric induced him to offer to them, and continued to stand up as marks for the enemies who were willing to spare them.

The young soldier who had, early in the enterprize, attracted the notice and admiration of Ulric, still continued to bend his utmost efforts to the defence of his chief, and frequently had his sword penetrated the ranks of the Austrians, and assisted materially to achieve the victory. Ulric had now, for the first time, since his entrance into the town, missed the young warrior from his side; and, fearful lest any mischief might have befallen him, with no little anxiety, he directed his inqui-

ries respecting him. At length, he was discovered, at no small distance from his friends, engaged in binding up the wounds of the Austrian Governor, who had fallen by the stroke of a lance directed against him by a Switzêr. Ulric was astonished, but he suppressed his wonder, and ordered the wounded chief to be conveyed to a secure asylum, where he might be attended to with less interruption, and far from the reàch of danger.

Disconcerted by the fall of their Governor, the Austrians soon relinquished the vain opposition which he had excited them to continue, and surrendered themselves to the mountaineers. The sun rode high in the Heavens, surrounded by an unclouded sky, when this desired event took place ; and Ulric, on the instant, bending his knees to the

earth, sent up to Heaven the tribute of the purest gratitude for the success which had this day attended his arms. The Austrians were conducted to the castle; the dead were removed from the streets; the gates were repaired; and the flag of Switzerland once more waved in triumphant majesty on the walls and the towers of Zurich.

"You have fought well, my friends," said Ulric, as he led his army to refresh themselves after the fatigues they had undergone—"You have gained the prize for which you contended, Zurich is ours; and the foundation stone of Helvetic liberty is laid. But we have another effort to make, before we can call ourselves secure. The reinforcements from Germany which our foes have expected, are on their way; we must meet them, andremove from them

the power of wresting out of our hands the victory we have won. We must thus prove that we have prudence and foresight to preserve what our arms have won."

Loud shouts burst from all parts of the army, who felt themselves proud of being again enabled to enjoy without restraint or fear, the rights and the land of their forefathers. It was no common triumph which sparkled in the eyes of the conquerors; it was no common joy which animated their bosoms; theirs was the triumph of the oppressed over the oppressor; of the enslaved over his enslaver; of the persecuted over his persecutor; and their joy was that pure effluence which springs only from exalted principles. "We have this day done what our fathers for several generations past have wished for, but have wasted the

power and spirit to achieve. We have by this effort broken a yoke which the lapse of ages had rendered so firm that it was deemed impossible to destroy it. This we have done to day, and if there be not just cause for delight and gratitude, there never was nor can be." Thus said the soldiers to each other, as they followed their chiefs; and there was not a Switzer whose bosom did not swell with an emotion correspondent to that which animated the countenance of Ulric, and from him had spread its infectious influence to all the chieftains who surrounded him. He had just then forgotten the loss of his Florida; his whole soul was wrapped up in the contemplation of the recent achievement, and of its important consequences.

When Ulric looked round amongst his friends, he again missed the gal-

lant soldier, who had before been an object of his solicitude; but on enquiring into the cause of his absence, he was still more surprised to discover no traces of him. "Several times (said the chief) did this gallant youth, at the risk of his own life, rescue me from the strokes which were levelled at my life: and I would fain redeem the pledge which I gave to him, by conferring upon him some signal mark of my esteem. This day we devote to repose and reward; to-morrow we shall require his services again, when we march to meet our enemies in the field; for we can ill spare such a heroic Switzer, as the one who has given such proofs of his valour."

There was not a Switzer present who would not have exchanged situations with the modest youth, who thus lived in the affectionate

remembrance of his chief; but the soldier himself, who was the theme of panegyric, appeared not, he seemed to care little for the honor, which would have rendered any other individual inexpressibly proud; he remained secure in solitude, unknown amidst the thousands of eyes which were searching for him in every direction. Ulric felt himself uneasy at his absence, and became dispirited, when Riesbach, with a view to divert his thoughts into a more cheerful channel, reminded him of the situation of Lucette in the cave, and of the promise he had made to send for her in the event of success.

Ulric immediately ordered a detachment to speed its way to the mountains, and to bring the fair object of their solicitude and search; and the command he entrusted to Riesbach, who seemed anxious to take

it upon himself; but at the instant when the detachment was about to commence its journey, Lucette herself appeared, and, advancing to the spot where Ulric stood, she complimented him on his triumph, with a delight which she could not conceal in her countenance. "You have achieved a great victory, noble chief," said she; "and Switzerland will have cause to bless your name to remotest posterity. You have rescued your country from the gripe of foreign invaders, and generations to come will cherish your name as that of their preserver and the saviour of their land. Austria will tremble at your name, and invaders will be cautious how they again assail a country which boasts of such a hero, and such an invincible army. If my countrymen have done their duty, I demand your protection; if they have fail-

ed, I throw myself upon your mercy."

"They have done their duty, and have justified the confidence we reposed in them," replied Ulric, and he spoke truly; for, anxious to wipe away the imputations which had been cast upon their name and their fidelity, they had rushed constantly into the thickest of the fight. Wherever there was most of danger; wherever the German forces pressed in greatest numbers, there were sure to be found the emancipated Austrians, stemming the torrent, with the most determied vigour; there were they found, dispersing their arrows in every direction, and giving a new turn to the tide of victory. The Swiss had marked their progress, their intrepidity, and their enthusiasm, with feelings of transport: and followed in the same track of glory, until the victory was decided, and

the conquest of Zurich from the enemy was completed,

The bosom of Lucette swelled high when she heard the encomiums which all the chiefs lavished on the conduct of her countrymen; and more transported still did she feel, when she marked the anxiety with which Larlach, the Bernese commander, endeavoured to recompense them for the imputation which he had hastily cast upon their conduct before their fidelity had been tried. He now was enthusiastic in their praise and gave them a character of heroism, superior to that which he bestowed on his own countrymen.

"There was one individual, however," said Ulric, "who was a Swiss, and who was ever at my side, stemming every danger, and warding off the attacks which were made against me. I would freely give up half the

pleasure I feel in this victory, could I again gain sight of him. He holds my ring as a pledge of my esteem, and I trust he may yet come and claim the promise which I made to him in the hour of battle."

Lucette trembled exceedingly; a violent agitation seized possession of her whole frame; but suddenly recalling her wonted firmness, she drew from her finger a ring, and holding it up to the view of Ulric, exclaimed, in a faltering voice—"here also is a ring which may possess some claim to your attention."

It was the very ring which Ulric had given to his preserver, and his emotion was not to be equalled when he beheld it in the possession of Lucette. For some time he vainly endeavoured to master his surprize and agitation; and, at length, he collected himself sufficiently to ask, in

a voice of apprehension. "Has any accident then befallen the gallant youth? or why comes he not in person to claim the just reward of that unexampled heroism which rendered him conspicuous above every other brave Swiss?"

"The soldier is now before you," replied Lucette, "it was I who fought by your side, and performed those acts, which your partiality has so greatly magnified. The arms and dress of a deceased Swiss which were in a corner of the cavern served me as a disguise; and when you quitted the recess of the mountain, to marshal your band, I assumed the character of a warrior and united myself to your army, just as you entered the narrow defile which led you down the mountain. Fortune favored my wishes; by keeping as near to your person as possible, I

was included in the detachment which you yourself took the command of, and when we lay under the walls of the town, I detached myself from my comrades in arms and kept close to your person, during the events which succeeded. I saw my father fall by the lance of a Switzer, and, rushing to his assistance, I bound up his wounds and paid him every filial attention. When your victory was completed, and there was no further need of my services, I retired into the castle, and having found my own apartment in the same state in which I left it, I threw off my martial disguise, and assumed a dress which was more becoming. In this garb, I again sought my father, and soon prevailed upon him to give me his forgiveness; he lies now at the point of death, and I have only quitted

him for a moment to congratulate you upon the brilliant success which has attended your arms. In my own apartment I have deposited my Swiss dress: there you will find evidence of the truth of my tale; and if I have rendered any assistance to the cause of Switzerland, that reflection will be a sufficient reward. I return you the ring which you gave to me. Joyfully would I retain it, if I could with it, hope to receive your dearest affections; but without them, this ring would to me be alone a source of painful regret."

Ulric was lost in wonder and admiration as he contemplated the character and conduct of Lucette; and when he had somewhat recovered from his first emotions, he renewed the praises he had before lavished upon her heroism, with redoubled animation. But it was in vain that

he endeavoured to persuade her to give him an opportunity of shewing a more substantial gratitude; she firmly resisted all his arguments, and, after a few minutes, retired to administer a consolation to the harassed mind of her dying father. Riesbach gazed after her with an emotion scarcely less than that of Ulric, although it proceeded from a different cause. He had never felt himself so interested in a narrative before this hour; he had never looked upon a woman so exalted above the weaknesses and failings of her sex as Lucette; and as he considered the nature and extent of her qualifications, he could not suppress a sigh which burst from him when he also perceived how deeply rooted appeared her affection for his friend and chief, Ulric. He was, however, recalled to his recollection, by Ulric

himself, who noticed his abstraction, and easily guessed the cause, for this was not the first time that he had seen his gallant companion lost in the silent contemplation of the attractive virtues of the fair Austrian.

"Come, come, Riesbach," said Ulric, "banish that thoughtfulness; and let us fill a flaggon of wine, and pledge the martial maid, who despised death, and sought the thickest haunts of danger to display her prowess. By the Virgin, but she is an unparalleled woman, and well merits our ardent admiration."

"With all my heart, captain," replied Riesbach, "and happy should I be if she would shew such an affection for me, as that which she has this day displayed towards you. Her moments of despair should be speedily reduced in number, and if all the attentions of a rough moun-

taineer would give her happiness. I would be sworn to make her the happiest Austrian that ever gained sight of the Alps; for I always feel myself strangely bewitched, whenever I am in her presence but for a single moment."

Ulric sat in profound thoughtfulness for some minutes, and, at length, he replied—" 'Tis well suggested; remind me of this subject when we have defeated the rest of our enemies, and I will be your friend. You have many claims on my friendship, Riesbach; and if I can promote your happiness, I will do it. But now let us think of to-morrow. The reinforcements on their way hither, are variously represented, but none makes them out at more than fourteen thousand men. I think we shall do well to march out against them, with the next dawn, with that

number, and leave Father Ursulo to govern the town, aided by four thousand Switzers whom we will leave under his command."

The plan was approved by all the leaders of the troops, and the army was dismissed to repose and indulgence, after the walls had been properly manned. The city now wore a very different appearance; joy sat upon the countenances of the Swiss inhabitants, who had long wished for the arrival of this happy moment, when the chains which foreign tyrants had forged for them were again broken, and the hydra of corruption was destroyed. The Austrian families also felt themselves perfectly contented, when they were assured that the same protection which was given to the natives, would be extended to them; and that they would still be allowed to

enjoy an uninterrupted traffic, and full personal security. Trade was resumed; hospitality spread its cheer before the gallant troops who had emancipated the town, and the day was given to festivity and mirth.

The late Governor, the father of Lucette, breathed his last before evening. The wound which he had received was mortal; and its effects would have been more immediate; had not the filial attentions of his daughter, imparted to his mind a degree of calm serenity, and thus banished those violent emotions which would have accelerated his end. He confessed, at the awful moment, when equivocation has no more attractions, that the cause of the Swiss was a just cause, and deserved to be successful; and that he had been led to inflict severities upon the luckless natives of the mountains,

rather by a spirit of revenge than by any hatred to their liberties or persons. He prayed permission to behold Ulric, and commended to him his daughter; and the youthful chief received the pledge, and promised faithfully to acquit himself of the duty reposed in him.

On the following morning, just as the sun hâd risen, the whole of the Swiss army appeared under arms; and soon afterwards, headed by Ulric, fourteen thousand men followed him through the gates of Zurich, on their way to intercept the reinforcements which were on their way to the town. At mid-day the whole army encamped on a spacious plain, and refreshed themselves; and the same night, they occupied a valley through which the enemy must pass, and where they determined to remain until the dawn should enable them to

pitch upon a spot where they might take up an advantageous position in which to receive the Austrians.

Without interruption passed the night, and early on the following morning, the whole army mounted a high ridge upon their right which overlooked the surrounding country, and teemed with advantages, as a ground for action. The road through the valley which they had just quitted, was entirely exposed to the fire of their arrows; while they were themselves protected by numerous cliffs and protruding ridges which would intercept the missiles sent from the plain below. Here they took their ground, and resolved to wait for the arrival of their enemy, and before the sun had gained its meridian, the parties on the look out beyond the valley were seen returning with all possible speed, and every

preparation was instantly made for the reception of the enemy. In less than an hour the soldiers came in, with intelligence of the near approach of a German army, which appeared in the distance, to be somewhat inferior in numbers to that of the Swiss, and was within an hour's march of the valley.

Scarcely had this information been received, before the glitter of arms, reflected in the sun, appeared rounding the mountain which bounded the valley beneath. Marching in slow majesty, the hostile army advanced, unsuspicious of the appearance of danger; ignorant of the fate of their friends and the fall of Zurich. They kept on their way until they had reached the middle of the valley, where the whole force paused, and stretched upon the verdant plain, began to take such re-

freshments as their stores produced. This seemed a favorable opportunity to commence the attack, but Ulric checked the rising inclination. "Let them eat their food peaceably," said he, "it is perhaps the last meal they will have to enjoy. When they begin to ascend the mountain, they will be more exposed to our missiles, and will be in a position where they will not be able to do us the least harm. We need not fear them; they are not superior in numbers, and in courage and justice they cannot equal us."

All assented to the arrangements, and the whole of the Swiss army moved silently along the summit of the hill, hid from view by the craggy ridge on their side, until they had reached a second ridge considerably to the left of their former position, and immediately, beneath which lay

the road up the mountainous chain, which stretched through the canton of Zurich. Here they once more paused, and busied themselves in preparation for the fight; while the enemy in the valley still remained unconcious of the movements which had taken place, and finished their meal, with interrupting their enjoyments by gloomy reflections on the present, or desponding presages to the future. They saw not the cloud, and, consequently, dreaded not its contents.

A little beyond the position which Ulric had taken, the road defiled between two mountains, and a detachment of the Swiss had just returned from obstructing this road, when the Austrians began to rise from their repast, and to put themselves in motion. "It is possible," said Ap Gryff, "that a division

of the enemy, even after they have been defeated, would be enabled by means of this defile, to escape to Zurich, and their numbers, added to the surprise of their sudden appearance, might lead to the recapture of the town, before we could come up with them, and prevent it." The suggestion was attended to by Ulric, who saw its propriety, and instantly dispatched a thousand men, to render the road such as to prevent the possibility of a rapid flight. When this measure had been executed the Swiss leaders found their own security considerably increased.

In a short time the first division of the Austrians entered the fatal road, and had advanced to its mid way, when they were suddenly saluted by a prodigious shower of arrows which stretched hundreds of them lifeless

on the earth. Without giving them time to recover from their consternation, the Swiss quickly poured in a second discharge, not less fatal in its effects than the first; and the astonished Austrians, who had proceeded too far to leave the opportunity of retreat, pushed forward to emancipate themselves from the perilous position, before their numbers should be too greatly reduced to render further resistance ineffectual.

Ulric, however, perceived the intention of his enemies, and pushed forward the left extremity of his army to frustrate their views, so that when the van of the Austrians had gained the end of the ridge which they so much feared, they found themselves attacked with astonishing impetuosity, by a division of troops which they never expected, nor were prepared for. An arduous con-

flict ensued; the Austrians were unwilling to allow their assailants an easy victory, and accordingly fought with the ferocity of despair. But the Swiss were continually reinforced by fresh numbers, until, at length, the whole force of the two armies were brought to bear against each other, in the open plain. Then the struggle became still more severe, until the wearied Germans, unable to present any further opposition which was likely to be effectual, endeavoured to make their escape by means of the obstructed defile; here of course they found themselves counteracted, and compelled to face their antagonists again, and to recommence a contest which promised no laurels, but only bid fair to terminate in disgrace and irretrievable destruction.

In proportion as the Austrians

were tortured by disappointment and apprehensions, the Swiss were flushed by hope and exultation. The diminishing ranks of their enemies bore evidence of their prowess; and their enfeebled efforts evinced their increasing despondency. Already several thousands of the German army were strewed along the road; and every step they took was marked by fresh blood and new corses. The battle, notwithstanding, continued until the shades of night curtained the scene, when the Austrians availed themselves, of the aid of the darkness, and precipitately retraced the road which they had trodden in the morning. The Swiss still hung upon their steps during the whole of the night, determined to render the victory as decisive as possible, in order to increase the security of Zurich, and the enemy, when the dawn

again broke, to their utter astonishment, beheld their antagonists on the same plain with themselves, prepared for a renewal of that conflict which had already proved so fatal to the legions of Austria. There was no way of escape, the mountaineers rushed on impetuously to the attack, and recommenced the contest with a fury, equal if not superior to that which had marked the conflict of the preceding day. For several hours, the battle raged, but just at mid-day, the Austrians gave way at all points, after experiencing the most severe reduction of their numbers, and, in the utmost disorder, flew across the plain, and sealed the high mountains which bounded it, with a celerity which would have been produced by nothing less than the idea that their lives were in danger. Such rapidity did they display in their movements,

that before sun-set, not an Austrian was to be seen in the plain, or on the mountains; except the lifeless bodies which were strewed around.

On viewing the dead, the Swiss perceived in the plain wherethelas t battle had been fought, nearly four thousand destroyed enemies, while the plain where they had first encountered the enemy, contained six thousand more. Ulric ordered that the bodies should be interred, and that the army, which had only lost about five hundred men, should encamp on the valley, where they had reposed during the night before the Austrian army had first hovered in sight.

The canton of Zurich was thus completely emancipated from the yoke of vassalage which had so long galled it; which had bent down its

spirit, and destroyed its vigour. Not an Austrian army now traversed its plains, or scaled its mountains; the peasant might till his lands without apprehension of interruption; the shepherd might tend his flocks without fear; a Swiss governor should direct the energies of the department; and every native of the district would be ready to start forward in its defence, should it again be attacked. Thus thought Ulric, as, beneath the light of the moon, he traversed his own camp, and marked the centinels as they performed their stated duty. He had performed the task he had undertaken: Zurich was freed, and it only remained for the surrounding cantons to league with this one, to break the power of Austria amongst the mountains for ever. This was the end to which he had directed his efforts;

this the ground and motive of his taking up arms. Providence had blessed those arms, and so far he was satisfied and grateful. But where was the prize for which he contended? Where was the promised meed which was to crown his efforts and reward his toil? He had fulfilled the conditions; he had not sheathed his sword in peace, until the bondage of his country had been destroyed; until the talisman which paralyzed her liberty was dissolved; but where was his Florida? Alas! perhaps she has fallen a victim to hunger, weariness and filial affection; perhaps the mountains which had sheltered him and his comrades from the winter's snows and the summer's sun, were now her asylum; perhaps they may given her a grave! Or, it was possible, she might live; she might have sought some refuge with her father,

and have led an obscure life, to elude the malice of her enemies; and, if so, surely the news of his success would draw her from her retirement, and induce her to throw herself into his arms; there was a happiness in this thought which he had not tasted for some time before, and he determined no longer to despair; but to wander, disguised, over his native mountains, until he should find the beloved object of his search. What was victory without reward? What had he gained by sacrificing his youth to the service of his country, unless he could afterwards taste the sweets which are the meed of exertion and enterprize? Thus continued Ulric to meditate and confuse himself, as he paced up and down the camp, until, wearied with the exertions of mind and body which he had undergone, he threw his cloak upon the

ground, and stretched himself to slumber under the stormy canopy of Heaven.

Florida was present to his sleeping, as well as his waking thoughts. He beheld her disguised as a peasant, at one moment; at another he sought her in vain over steep mountains which scarcely the chamois could climb. At one time hope spurred him on to encounter every danger and difficulty without fear; and, at another, despondency and despair sank him down to the ground; he was incapable of effort and lay stretched at the point of death. Now she appeared issuing from a monastery: now exposed to want and misery in the crowded streets of a town; now she intreated food to keep her from perishing and then she appeared sitting on a rock, singing her evening hymn to the virgin, and weaving into it the name of

her Ulric: thus did the fancies of the sleeping youth torture him incessantly during the night, and when the dawn of the morning arouzed him from his slumbers, he was still seeking her through imaginary wilds, urged by a secret voice which encouraged him to search until his labours should be rewarded.

With the dawn of the morning, the army was in motion, and Ulric, placing himself at its head, again set forward to Zurich. His mind was so agitated, during the day, by the thoughts of his Florida, that his absence and despondency were too evident to pass unnoticed, and his friends endeavoured in vain to banish the gloom which overspread his countenance. Ap Gryff, however, took the most effectual method to cheer his pupil and friend. "You do wrong." said the old bard, "to give way to

despair, we shall yet find the Count and his daughter, and restore them to happiness. We will both commence a search after them, from mountain to mountain, from cottage to cottage, until Heaven shall reward us with success; for I feel an inward conviction that we shall soon be rewarded for our toil. Despair will not produce exertion; on the contrary it will generate apathy and mar perseverance. Hope, and we shall soon find that our hopes are well founded." His voice spoke comfort to the heart of Ulric, who grasped his hand, thanked him, with a look of affection, and promised to go according to his direction.

CHAPTER. XV.

THE return of the Swiss army was welcomed with the utmost transport, by Father Ursulo, and the brave warriors who had remained with him; and the worthy prior was anxious to resign his command into the hands of Ulric, who was called to fill the important post of Governor, by the unanimous voice of the soldiers and inhabitants. His reply, however, was grateful, yet decisive. "My friends," said he, "I have done my duty, and fulfilled the purpose for which I took up arms. You have your freedom restored to you; not by me, but by the brave troops who will remain

amongst you; and if you again suffer it to be wrested from you, the punishment will fall, where the fault will lie, among yourselves, I am not ambitious of honors: I wish not to become your Governor; the office will be better filled by Father Ursulo than myself; he has had experience, and possesses wisdom, benevolence and capacity for the task. I have other views, and I absent myself from you until I can accomplish them. Should Heaven bless my endeavours, and grant me the happiness I seek, I may return to you, and waste away my days on this spot: should I not be successful, you may yet see me again, but I shall not be as I now am." Here his voice failed him; his emotions, as he began to contemplate the horrors which would await him if Florida was indeed no more, became too powerful for him to resist, and he

was compelled to retire, and gave vent to his sorrows in solitude. Shortly afterwards he once more returned to his friends, and restated the reasons for his refusal in a tone of voice which showed that his determination was unalterable.

With the soldiers, however, his rejection was not so easily received. "Did he not live with us in the cave," said they, "have we not accompanied him in all dangers, and supported him in every engagement? And does he quit us now, when we have gained him the opportunity of becoming great? We are accustomed to him; we know him to be a friend to us, and we will have no other Governor; at least until he can give us some satisfactory reason for not taking upon himself the honorable situation." Thus murmured the soldiers, whom Ulric had attached to himself by his kind-

ness they had fixed upon him for their Governor; and they were resolved either to have him, or a reason which would silence their scruples.

The news of this general dissatisfaction was soon carried to the ears of Ulric, with a variety of exaggerations; but it shook not his resolution. He had made up his mind to act as he had stated, and he was determined not to relinquish his intentions. He repaired, however, to his soldiers, and having assembled them round him, he addressed them "My comrades, who have shared with me every danger and every glory; who have been contented to dwell with me in caves, and on the mountains, exposed to the chilling breezes of midnight. I have led you to victory, and have enabled you to regain the freedom which had been snatched from you. What more

would you require of me? I would gladly and gratefully accept of the honor you have offered to me; but I have other views to fulfil, which require my absence from you, perhaps for a time only, perhaps for ever. I cannot accept of your honors without relinquishing those views, and I cannot relinquish these views, without sacrificing my happiness. Who is there among you that would wish to see me wretched and a misanthrope? Who is there, whose own happiness would be promoted by seeing mine destroyed? I have full confidence that you will accede to my wishes—that you will not demand of me any new sacrifices, but will allow me to prosecute my own views in my own manner. A time may come when I may return to you successful; and, in that case, I may perhaps render you further services."

The murmurs of the soldiers were entirely banished by this address of their commander; and they replied to him with loud cheerings and cries of "Success to our noble chief." Ulric retired, and it was that day decided that Father Ursulo should at least hold the situation of Governor, until it should be seen whether Ulric would return to fill it or not. When these arrangements had been made the gallant chief took his leave of his old comrades, but when he came to Riesbach, the tears which stood in the eyes of the youthful chieftain penetrated to the soul of Ulric, who exclaimed—"Is there nothing I can do for my friend, Riesbach, before I quit him?" At this moment, the recollection of his promise to his friend, respecting the amiable Lucette, flashed across his mind, and, relinquishing his hand, he rushed

out of his presence, and sought the residence of the beautiful Austrian.

Lucette was alone when the chief entered: and a blush of pleasure mantled on her cheeks, when he approached her. "Amiable woman," said he, taking her hand, "I should act the part of a dissembler, were I to pretend ignorance respecting your affection for me. Were it in my power to return it, I should have told you long since. My heart is wedded to one, and whether she is dead or living, it can receive no other. But I have a friend, open, generous and brave: his heart, fortified by no early passion, is sensible of your worth: and his hand awaits your acceptance. You are not ignorant of his worth, you know in what estimation is held the name of Riesbach. Permit me to become his

advocate; he will cherish your happiness, and you will perfect his."

Ulric ceased; and Lucette, with down-cast eyes, which overflowed with tears, sat for some time in silence; she had long known that her attempts on the heart of Ulric were vain; but she had for a moment indulged the vain hope that her anxiety to defend him in the heat of battle; and the dying request of her father, that he should protect her, would have worked a change in his sentiments towards her; especially, as the loss of Florida had removed from him the only impediment which existed to her wishes. When Ulric came to visit her even now, she was giving way to the pleasing illusion, and erecting visionary structures of happiness; she was engaged in the anticipation of the delights which would result from an union with

him, and a participation in his rank and his fame. When he entered her apartment, she even carried the delusion so far as to believe that he was now come to banish sorrow from her breast, and give to her lips the cup of joy: How great then was her disappointment, to hear from his lips the sentence which annihilated all her hopes! How still more terrible, and more unlooked for, to hear him pleading the cause of another! It is true, that other might have possessed a greater interest in her heart, if Ulric had never been seen by her; but now she wished to convince herself that he had no advocate within her bosom, but was the same as other men in her opinion. Something there was, however, which spoke loudly to her, and told her that there was a possibility of tasting happiness with Riesbach, and she

began to reason herself into a firmer conviction of this truth. If it was impossible to have Ulric, and it surely was, after he had made such a plain confession, Riesbach did not seem deficient in all these good qualities which she wished to find in a husband. He was inferior to Ulric, but it was to Ulric alone; for he was certainly superior to every other man she knew. In this train she proceeded, until she had reasoned herself into a determination to assent to the wishes of Ulric, and by the time she had rounded herself to this point, the tears had dried on her cheeks, and she gave her consent with a tolerably good grace. "You, sir," said she, "have been appointed by my father to guide me through life; and as the first wish of my heart cannot be gratified, I shall submit myself, in every respect, to your

entire direction. Dispose of me as you think proper; you will not give me to one who will despise your gift."

"No, amiable Lucette," replied Ulric, "Riesbach has been my companion, from our first entrance into the military career; and I have had full oportunities of making myself acquainted with his merits. Ever is the first to do a generous action, his soul turns naturally from every thing of an opposite nature; and I have seen him, who powered defiance upon an army of lances, or a cloud of arrows, shed tears of sorrow, silently and rapidly, when his heart has been touched by a tale of sorrow. His life will be devoted to your happiness: your wishes will be anticipated; and happiness will be your constant companion. He loves you with an ardour of tenderness which

cannot be surpassed; and that will ensure your felicity. For me, I shall wander, until I find the object of my search, her in whom is centered all my bliss; if I succeed, happiness also will be mine, and I will return to Zurich; if I should not, Heaven alone can tell what will become of me, whether I shall return hither, or my bones shall find a grave in the mountains around you."

Lucette wept to behold the sorrows of Ulric, but she soon dried her tears, and attempted to pour into his ears words of consolation, nor did she entirely fail in her endeavours; he soon became more tranquil, and returned to the subject of his visit. "You will allow me to introduce my friend," said he; Lucette blushed, and answered by an inclination of her head, which conveyed an affirmative to Ulric, who,

without waiting for any further consent immediately quitted her apartment, but returned, after a few minutes' absence, bringing in his hand the happy, and the agitated companion of his toils.

During the absence of Ulric, Lucette had been in vain preparing herself for the reception of her new lover; but the more she considered in what way she should conduct herself, the more was she perplexed; and when she heard approaching footsteps, she was as irresolute as at the first moment. Ulric, however, gave her no time to recal her confused thoughts, but leading his friend to her, he took her hand, and placing it in that of the delighted Riesbach, exclaimed—"May Heaven so bless you as you love each other. Riesbach, receive her as the gift of the Virgin, and cherish her happi-

ness. Lucette give your whole heart to Riesbach, and be happy." As he said this he pressed their hands, and uttering a hasty farewell, rushed out of the apartment and joined Ap Gryff.

The two friends agreed to commence their journey on the following morning, at an early hour; and retired to repose, to gain new strength for their enterprize. But Ulric's mind was too much occupied by thoughts of his Florida, to allow him much inclination for repose. He lay revolving a thousand plans in his mind, until long after the hour of midnight, when exhausted nature refused to make any new efforts, and the wearied youth in a deep slumber, lost for a time the recollections which so powerfully agitated him.

When Aurora peeped over the mountains in the East, Ulric arose,

and equipped himself in a garb of hunter's green, and arming himself with bow and arrows for the chace, he sought the companion of his journey, who was already waiting similarly equipped, but with the addition of his faithful harp, the constant companion of his wanderings, the gates were thrown open at their approach, and closed upon them, as they quitted the streets of Zurich, and bent their way towards the acclivity which surmounted the priory of Chamouny "there," said the bard, "it will be well to make our first essay; perchance the Count and his daughter may bave found a refuge amongst the friendly inhabitants of a monastery which owes so much to his liberality and piety. Our journey may terminate happily, perchance at its very commencement."

"I have promised to submit myself in all things to your direction," replied Ulric, "wherever there is a probability of success, let us investigate, undeterred by any dangers or difficulties. The priory of Chamouny we may reach, with ease, before sunset, and I pray the virgin that we may find there what we seek."

Ap Gryff re-echoed the prayer, and the two wanderers pushed forward on their way, skimming the feet of the mountains, and refusing frequently to gaze upon the surrounding beauties of the country, which serenely smiled under the influence of a summer's sun. As the sun declined, the towers of Chamouny appeared in view and soon afterwards Ulric assailed the gate, and demanded of the porter admittance to the prior. His request was immediately complied with, and

the travellers were introduced, but the face of the prior was that of a stranger. Ulric did not recollect to have seen him amongst the inhabitants of the monastery when he visited it before.

To him Ulric proposed a question as to what had become of the family of Zur. "I know not," said the prior, "ever since that terrible night when the attack was made upon the castle, and the count and his daughter carried away, no tidings of them have reached us; except reports as contradictory as possible. Some have said that they fell privately by the command of the Governor of Zurich, while others have stated that they made their escape, and have found a refuge in the mountains. This is all the information which I can give."

Ulric and Ap Gryff were dejected, but the latter replied. "We search

for their retreat, at the command of the late Governor of Zurich, and if you could discover their retreat rich would be your reward."

"Has Zurich then changed its Governor," returned the prior, with a look sufficiently indicative of surprize.

"It has," said Ap Gryff, "the Austrian power has been destroyed, by the sword of Ulric Gribenholt, and the new Governor, is a Swiss, who ruled in this priory, under the name of Father Ursulo."

"Father Ursulo, Governor of Zurich!" responded the amazed prior—"Why father you astonish me! But the hour passes rapidly away which limits the duration of strangers in the monastery, and I must intreat your absence—The rules of our order forbid us from entertaining guests here, after sun set."

Ulric would have complied with

the desire of the prior, but Ap Gryff detained him, by touchiug his cloak. The youth immediately became more attentive to the countenance of the monk, which was truly savage, and from his eyes shot forth an expression of the most diabolical nature; his countenance had suddenly changed, since he had heard that Zurich was wrested from the Austrian yoke.

"Holy father," exclaimed Ap Gryff, in German, "you will not refuse the rights of hospitality to two distressed Austrians, who seek them in the name of their country. We have no other asylum to give us an abode."

"Austrians!" re-echoed the prior—"then you are welcome to remain. I mistook you for Swiss, who were here as spies, and this suspicion made me wish to get rid of you. Tell me for what purpose you seek the Count of Zur."

"For what purpose should Austrians seek him," replied the bard, "but to revenge on him the injuries our cause has sustained through his treachery. Our Governor was slain in the conflict which took place in the streets of Zurich, and scarcely a man of all our comrades has survived that terrible night. As he lay on the point of death, our Governor intreated us to pursue the house of Zur, and to revenge his death on the Count and his daughter, he was about to add more, but the hand of death arrested his words, and he died without imparting to us the information where we might expect to find the retreat of the fugitives."

"Did he so?" "replied the prior, in a considerative tone of voice; and then, after a long pause, he added— "well, repose yourselves for the night in the priory, and to-morrow we will

consult further upon this business, I will send you refreshments. The late Governor was a sincere friend of mine, and, I regret his loss."

"Ah!" said Ap Gryff, "we suspected so, for he mentioned Chamouny, in an almost unintelligible manner, "and this it was which induced us to venture hither; for we thought, from his gestures that he intended us to believe that you were acquainted with the retreat of the Count and his daughter."

"For we will talk further on this subject to-morrow;" answered the prior; "I have other duties, which now require my attendance, but we will confer anon. Make yourselves easy respecting the objects of your search," As he said this, he hastily blessed his guests, and retired out of the apartment.

It was well that the prior retired

precipitately, or he would have seen the emotions of Ulric, which became too powerful to be concealed. No sooner, however, had the priest retired, than the youth gave a loose to his feelings, and hugging the bard affectionately, thanked him a thousand times over for the penetration and adroitness he had displayed in the management of the business. "They are assuredly in this priory," he continued; but how to manage to emancipate them, is a matter of some difficulty. I will trust entirely to your wisdom: I owe my present happiness to you, and I feel that you will restore to me my Florida,"

"I will do my endeavours;" replied Ap Gryff; "but you must assist me. We shall not be able to manage the affair by ourselves, and one of us must return to Zurich and procure military force, when we shall

have discovered where the objects of our search are confined. I hear footsteps, be careful to observe closely the countenance of whoever comes in; that, by making ourselves acquainted with his mind, we may discover whether he is a fit instrumentfor us to employ, and how we may best turn him to use"

Ulric had scarcely received his instruction, and promised compliance, before the door opened, and two monks entered, bearing between them refreshments. In one of the attendants Ulric immediately recognized an old man who was formerly much attached to him, and was a faithful adherent of the house of Zur. Surely, thought Ulric, this man is not become an enemy to his ancient benefactor. Without presuming, however, at present, to answer such a difficult question, he contented himself with

concealing his countenance from the observation of the monk, and when they had again retired, Ulric imparted to his friend the discovery he had made; and asked whether he should sift him, to find out his present sentiments, and examine whether he would serve their purpose.

"Do it, my friend," replied Ap Gryff, "but let it be with the utmost caution; lest we should at once betray our own secret, and mar our projects. The least error or precipitation will ruin us entirely."

"I will leave the matter to you," said Ulric, "you have commenced well. I am fearful least my emotions should get the better of me and tell what I should wish to conceal. You can bett[illegible] master your feelings; and indeed you have not the same cause of agitation that I have."

Ap Gryff agreed to manage the

matter; and in a few minutes, the monk of whom they were discoursing, returned into the apartment, alone, bearing some wine. He seemed to approach fearfully, and eyed the strangers with looks of suspicion. Ap Gryff perceived the emotions in the old man's countenance, but without pretending to notice them, he addressed himself to Ulric—"The Count of Zur was a good master, I understand, and a pious man," then turning to the old monk, he added—"holy father, if I am not mistaken, this priory was founded by the nobleman whose castle was lately demolished?"

The monk relaxed, in some degree the severity of his brow, and replied—"Yes, stranger; he did indeed found this priory, and there was a time when gratitude reigned within these walls, but it is passed away."

"That was when Father Ursulo presided here, perhaps," resumed the bard—"I remember hearing strangers who came to Zurich give the prior a good character, for his piety, benevolence and charity?"

"Father Ursulo was a good man, he served god and man," replied the monk and immediately added—"but father Luke despises God and serves the devil. But you said something of Zurich, strangers, pray inform me whether it is true that the Austrians have been very considerably checked there?"

"So much so holy father," returned Ap Gryff, "that Zurich is now once more in the hands of the Swiss, and Father Ursulo is the Governor, the late ruler having been killed when the town was taken from the Austrians."

The old man immediately clasped

his hands together, and casting a look of grateful benignity towards Heaven exclaimed, in a low tone of voice—"Then may the blessed lady of the mountain, and all the saints be praised, for the time may yet come when the house of Zur may be restored."

Ulric could contain himself no longer, but starting up, he advanced close to the old monk, who started back, with considerable alarm, and exclaimed in a loud whisper—"Do you not recollect me, holy father, I am Ulric Gribenholt, the friend of the Count of Zur, the destined husband of his angelic daughter? Tell me instantly, do they still live, and where and by whom are they confined?"

The monk was for some moments so lost in surprize that he could not find words to reply. At length,

however, he seized the offered hand of Ulric, and pressing it ardently within his own, expressed his joy at this meeting. "But," said he, "it would be improper to enter into particulars where we are so likely to be overheard. I am appointed to attend upon you, and my cell is near the apartment allotted for your use; I will visit you when you have retired to repose, and tell you what I know. Until then, restrain your curiosity, lest any suspicion should enter the prior's breast respecting your real names and motives."

Ulric promised the strictest compliance with the old monk's desires, and Ap Gryff as the priest turned to retire whispered in his ear—"Remember also, that we are here as Austrians. No Swiss it appears is allowed to partake of the partial hospitality of your prior, who may soon

have cause to curse his own villany for suffering himself to be deluded from the interest of so good a master as the Count of Zur."

The monk promised, in his turn, to treat the strangers as Austrians, and retired leaving the two friends in a state of comparative transport at the success which had hitherto attended their efforts, and the prospect which was held out to them of a happy termination. "We are the peculiar favorites of the virgin," said Ap Gryff, "and we have much cause for gratitude."

"We have indeed;" was the only reply of Ulric, for the idea of his recovery of the happiness which he imagined had been totally snatched from his grasp had so totally engrossed his mind, that he could scarcely find leisure to talk. He began to anticipate the delights of a

re-union with his Florida, and was so abstracted by the contemplatiou of future felicity, that he heard not a hundred questions which the bard proposed to him, who, at length, almost offended at the taciturnity of his companion, left off speaking to him, and lapsed, himself, into a thoughtfulness nearly as profound as that of Ulric.

At length the hour of repose arrived, and the friendly monk entered to conduct the strangers to their apartment. After traversing several gloomy and vaulted passages, the travellers were conducted into a spacious room, whose size increased its murky appearance, and here the holy father took his leave of the guests, for the present, after whispering in the ear of Ulric—" In two hours hence expect me in your

chamber, and prepare to receive the tale I have to relate to you."

Never did two hours appear to lag so heavily as did these, during which they had to wait for the return of the monk. Both Ap Gryff and Ulric tried every method, in vain, to dissipate the dullness which reigned, and never was joy more truly felt, than when the limited time had elapsed, and the sound of his footsteps announced the approach of the trusty monk. He entered, with a taper in his hand, and, having trimmed it, and seated himself between the two guests, he thus commenced his tale :—

"It was about four days after the destruction of the Castle of Zur, that two strangers, dressed as pilgrims, demanded admittance at the gate of the priory, and being introduced to the prior, a long conversa-

tion succeeded, and the strangers remained, and refreshments were ordered for them; but so cautious was the prior not to permit his guests to be seen by any person, that he waited on them himself, and, after they had concluded their repast, he accompanied them to their apartment, and secured the door, bringing away the key in his pocket. When he had adopted this precaution, he called to him Father Thomas, a monk who was completely devoted to his interests, and would not scruple to perform any mean action, for the sake of gain. With this man the prior passed an hour in close conference, after which Father Thomas, muffled up so closely as to elude the observation of any but the brethren of the priory, passed out of the gate which was closed after him, leaving us all in a strange

state, curious to know where this mysterious business would have an end. On the following night, just before midnight, a loud knocking was heard at the gate, and when it was opened, Father Thomas re-appeared, accompanied by a stranger, concealed in a large thick cloak, which not only hid his face, but even his person from observation. They were met at the gate by the prior, in order to render it unnecessary for them to speak to the porter, and were by him conducted to his private chamber, where they remained in close discussion until the dawn of the morning, when the stranger, who had arrived with Father Thomas, was let out of the priory by the prior himself. For several days nothing further passed, under our observation; but, one night, after I had been attending a sick brother, who was

taken suddenly ill, I encountered the prior and Father Thomas, who were ascending from the vaults of the priory bearing the remains of some food, and a large pitcher. They started at sight of me, and the prior, rather in an angry tone, demanded my business there at that unseasonable hour. I replied to him, but from that moment I was certain that the two guests who were in the priory, had been immured in the dungeons, and were either destined to linger out existence in that terrible situation, or to die beneath the dagger of some venal assassin. I kept my suspicions to myself, but on the following day, as I went to repeat my visit to the cell of my sick brother, I was alarmed by the groans of some person near a spot which I passed, and on proceeding to examine into the cause, I beheld Father

Thomas lying under a heap of stones which had fallen upon him, dreadfully bruised. I assisted to extricate him from his painful situation, and supported him to his own cell; but when I was about to quit him, he entreated me to remain at his side— "I have received a mortal hurt," said he, "and a few hours longer will terminate my mortal existence. Do not quit me, but allow me the only comfort which remains to me; that of pouring out the confessions of my guilty soul into your pious ear. I have sinned grievously against Heaven, and I am now justly punished. It was one day, that I had been on a journey to Zurich for the prior, when, on my return, I found that two guests had arrived at the priory, upon whom the prior had waited himself. I was still thinking of the singularity of this

circumstance, when I was summoned to attend Father Luke; on going to whom, I found him violently agitated. "Brother Thomas (said he) I have now an opportunity thrown in my way of gaining new honors and increasing the wealth and prosperity of the priory prodigiously." I was anxious to learn further particulars, when he explained to me that the Count of Zur and his daughter had taken refuge in the priory from the rage of the Austrians, "and thanks to their disguises as pilgrims (he continued) their real characters are not known to any of the brotherhood." "But I cannot see how this can be turned to advantage (I replied) for every thing which the Count could do for our priory, he has already done with a liberal hand." "Foolish old man (he replied) and dost thou think that I expect to reap benefits from a fugi-

tive, who is himself stripped of every part of his possessions, and is doomed to wander an outcast from society? Is there no other way which suggests itself to thee?" "None," was my reply. "Then listen to me," answered the prior, "if we could contrive to give up the Count and his daughter to their enemies, we might make the Austrian Governor our powerful friends." My indignation for some time prevented me from making any reply, and when at length I did speak, it was in detestation of such an act of apostacy. I represented to the prior the services which the Count had unsparingly rendered to the priory, and the guilt which must attach to such conduct; but I argued in vain, Father Luke opposed to me the glittering and seducing prospects of worldly wealth and distinction; and, I regret to say, my arguments became weaker

and weaker; and he succeeded in winning me over to his iniquitous scheme. Without giving me time to retract, he instantly dispatched me to Zurich, to acquaint the Governor with the circumstance of the arrival of the fugitives, and to desire his commands as to the disposal of them. I found no difficulty in gaining access to the Austrian, whose transports were raised to the highest pitch by the exhilarating nature of my communication, and he was lavish in his praises for our fidelity and his promises of reward. He immediately resolved to accompany me back to the priory, that he might glut his eyes with the sight of the unhappy victims of treachery; and in less than an hour, together we retraced our way to the priory, where we arrived when it was near the midnight hour. Father Luke made me a party in the interview, which suc-

ceeded, in order that the Governor might feel himself the more obliged to fulfil any promises which he might be induced to make. The Governor demanded to see the prisoners before he would consent to make any stipulation, and he was accordingly conducted by us to the apartment of the Count, who, on beholding himself in the power of his enemy, cast a look of indignation on the prior, and exclaimed—" Is it thus, unworthy wretch, that I am rewarded for the benefits I have conferred upon thee? Does thy religion teach thee thus to act?" He was prevented from saying any more, by the brutality of Father Luke, who struck him in the mouth with his crucifix so violently, that the blood gushed from it. The Governor attempted to increase the anguish of the nobleman, by adding to the infamous taunts of the prior, but the unfortunate Count, from

that moment made no reply, but sunk into a state of despondency, whence we could not rouse him. The avarice of the prior was doomed to be disappointed, for, when he asked his reward, the Governor replied—" You have but done your duty, holy father, and do you seek reward? No, no; you have discovered to me the prisoners you have in your possession, and I thank you; but for their safety, I hold you accountable. If they are not produced to me, when I shall send for them, every one of your brotherhood shall be put to death, and your priory shall be razed to the ground." So saying, the Austrian Governor departed, leaving the prior in a sad state, what with the disappointment he had experienced, and the mortification he had felt from the language which the Governor held out to him.

For some hours, Father Luke was inclined to favor the escape of the Count and his daughter, in consequence of the insolence of the Governor; but he thought it most prudent to retract this opinion when he considered the penalty he should incur by the measure, and when he recollected the reproach of the Count. "No," said he, "they shall drag on their existence in the gloomy vaults of the priory; until the hour of their fate shall arrive. In aiding the views of the Governor, I execute my own revenge, and even the haughty German himself may relent when he beholds in my conduct an imaginary attachment to his interests, which may serve him hereafter. He accordingly summoned me to attend him, instantly, to the chamber of the Count, whom we found in a deep sleep, raising him between us, we conveyed him to the dungeon ap-

pointed for his reception, before he could sufficiently awake to discover the real nature of his situation. Fastening the door, we returned, and seizing the daughter of the nobleman, who fainted in our grasp, we conveyed her to the same gloomy abode, and placing a dish of victuals by their side, with a pitcher of water and a taper, we left them to console each other. From this time I was ordered to repair to the prisoners every night. at the same hour, and to replenish their scanty supply so as just to keep life from quitting the wretched sufferers; and often did the prior express his determination to accompany me to the cell, in order to convince himself that I was not more merciful to the wretched Count and his daughter than he wished me to be. It was on the second of these nightly visits, that we encountered you amongst the passages, a circumstance which gave consider-

able alarm to us both, lest you should discover the nature of our visits to the spot, but your silence respecting the subject completely dissipated the fears of Father Luke, and revived confidence in his bosom. My career has been very short; this evening, as I attempted to conceal myself behind a broken pillar, on perceiving your approach, the stones of the support loosened beneath my torch, and the whole mass fell upon me, and has reduced me to this lamentable state. My crimes are now terminated, let your prayers and absolution give repose to my lacerated soul, and render the form of death less horrible. Oh! I would give worlds, had I them to give, if I could remove from my mind this one act of base ingratitude, this deed of treachery which weighs down my soul more than all the actions of my previous existence."

"Thus did this poor wretch con-

tinue to pour out his groans, for nearly an hour, in spite of my utmost efforts to sooth him, and at the expiration of that period, yielded up his guilty soul. I was struck with terror at the suddenness of his dissolution, for I had imagined that his hurts were less important than he represented them, and that his fears were the consequence of a guilty conscience, rather than the result of any real danger. But when I beheld him expire, I felt convinced that the punishment of Heaven had fallen upon the guilty wretch for his wickedness; and, with horror in my looks, I sought for Father Luke to impart to him the terrible end of his vile instrument, and confident in iniquity. He was sitting alone, when I entered, and when I approached him, he rose, with some sternness in his countenance, and demanded e cause of my intrusion.

"Father Thomas (said I) has just breathed his last."—A countenance, distorted by a thousand emotions, shewed part of the horrors which agitated his mind at this instant: at length he ejaculated—"'tis false; 'tis false, I saw him not two hours ago, alive and in health"—"It was so," said I, "but he now lies stretched in his cell, a body without a spirit, a trunk without sap: he is past the reach of mortal aid."—I will not believe it, until my own eyes shall witness it," said he, snatching up his taper, and following me to the cell of the unhappy wretch, whose countenance still bore evident marks of the violence of the feelings which had agitated him in the moments of dissolution. After gazing, for some time, on the lifeless corpse, the prior turning to me, demanded if I witnessed his last moments; and when I replied that I had received his con-

fession, the countenance of Father Paul became still more strongly agitated, and he rushed out of the cell, and made the best of his way to his own apartment. From that moment, he has placed more confidence in me than in any other of the brotherhood,but I wish not for my breast to be made the depositary of the secrets of such a monster as he is, and I have therefore avoided any close communication with him. I pray the virgin that the measure of his guilt may be nearly filled up."

Here the worthy monk concluded his tale, and Ap Gryff imparted to him the scheme which had suggested itself to him for the release of the prisoners. "To-morrow morning," said he, "I will pretend that we have left behind us a present which the late governor bequeathed to the prior, and when we have obtained permission to return for it; my friend

shall quit the priory, while I remain, in order to quiet any suspicions which might arise in the bosom of Father Luke. A military body will soon reach the priory, and the rescue of the prisoners, and the punishment of the hypocritical monk will be but the act of an hour. Ulric will fly on the wings of affection to execute his commission, and to bring deliverance to his beloved, and vengeance upon the head of him who has injured her."

The monk would have prolonged the conversation, but he was fearful of being missed, and accordingly took his leave; after giving his benediction to his friends, and invoking the aid of the virgin to their schemes.

On the following morning, after the guests had taken refreshments, they were requested to attend Father Luke, who was alone, in his chamber, awaiting their arrival. He sa-

luted the strangers with apparent affection, and desired that they would more explicitly detail the events which had recently occurred at Zurich.

Ap Gryff immediately entered into a relation adapted to the ears of the prior, in which he feigned to lament bitterly the reverses which the Austrian arms had sustained, and which he did not scruple to attribute to the imprudence of the Governor; "who," said he, "was at best but a weak man in important matters, and was not well qualified for the situation he held. But, my friend," he continued, addressing himself to Ulric, "you have about you some presents which the Governor gave to us at the moment of his dissolution: and which he probably designed for the holy father, but he was not permitted to give utterance to his wishes."

The prior's avarice was excited by this account, and he looked anxiously at Ulric, who, assuming an appearance of confusion, replied—"Alas! I have left them behind me in the house of Henrick where we lodged; but I will readily depart from the priory, and bring them. I know they are safe; and I can easily contrive to recover them without running into danger. They were supposed to be of immense value."

Father Luke could scarcely restrain his inclination to curse the negligence of his guests in thus leaving behind them treasures of such unknown value: but he considered it most prudent to wear, at least, an appearance of civility until he had gained them into his own hands. He, therefore, contented himself with giving his consent to the proposed plan for their recovery, adding—"The old man can remain in

the priory until you return. I will see that he is well treated, as such a friend deserves. Twenty-four hours will suffice for your journey. I wonder much that you were careless of the trust reposed in you."

Ulric, having thus gained his point, quitted the priory, and bent his way with all the expedition of an anxious lover, to obtain succours for the rescue of his beloved. His thoughts kept pace with his steps in their rapidity, and before he had proceeded a thousand yards, as many different anticipations of future happiness swam before his imagination's eye. He was no longer the despairing, the forsaken, the melancholy Ulric; his despondency was superceded by transport; and his doubts and apprehensions had been dispelled by the cheerful certainty which now illumed futurity. There was a possibility, however, that the

Count of Zur and his beloved Florida, might become the victims of the prior's sanguinary revenge, when he should find himself detected. But a little consideration served to banish this fear, for Ap Gryff was left behind to watch the conduct of Father Luke, and to check any paroxysm which might lead to those consequences, which it was so much their interest and wish to prevent. He determined, therefore, to let no apprehensions cloud his mind, but to hasten in the fulfilment of his own mission, and, by the assistance of a powerful force of those soldiers who were attached to him, to snatch those he loved from the arms of villany.

The sun had set, when Ulric came within sight of the walls of Zurich, and the gates were closed before he reached them. Without hesitation, however, he assailed them, and, on

being challenged, the voice and the name of Ulric Gribenholt instantly caused them to be re-opened, and the centinels received him with marks of the profoundest respect. Without delay, he hastened to the castle, and as all the soldiers gave way at his approach, he passed without interruption, into the apartment where Father Ursulo was surrounded by all his officers. A slight murmur which preceded Ulric, had prepared the Swiss for the arrival of some stranger, but Riesbach first recognized the countenance and figure of his late commander and friend, and, unable so repress his joy, he rushed forward, and pronounced his name, as he hugged the gallant youth to his bosom, and lavished on him the caresses of friendship.

Ulric was overwhelmed with congratulations, before he could find a

moment's space to relate the purport of his speedy visit; until, finding it in vain to silence the affectionate voices which assailed him on every side, he whispered the welcome news of the discovery of Florida to his friend Riesbach, and from him it quickly fled through the whole apartment, and kindled the purest joy in the eyes of all the officers who had crowded round their beloved and heroic commander.

When the news had spread, a silence, still as death, succeeded, for all were anxious to hear the details of such an interesting event; and indignation agitated every bosom when Ulric narrated the treacherous conduct of Father Luke which had caused him so much unhappiness and those he loved so much pain. Not a Swiss present hesitated for a moment to offer his services to accompany the gallant Ulric, who con-

tented himself, however, with selecting Riesbach and two hundred choice soldiers, to aid him in his intended enterprize. "These will suffice," said he, "to break the fetters of those I love, and to revenge them upon those who have oppressed them. A greater number of troops would be superfluous, and could not render my object more secure. I shall soon return with my Florida and her father, to dwell amongst you, to participate in your happiness, to renew my friendship with the companions of my labours, and to assist your councils with my humble advice and inexperience. Those hours will be the sweetest of my life, which are sacred to love and friendship."

"With joy shall I resign my authority," said Father Ursulo, "when you may return: for it is but just that he who rescued Zurich, should

rule it. I merely retain the Government in my hands, until I can relinquish it to you; and I shall hail with the sincerest pleasure, the hour which shall restore you to Florida, to happiness, and to the society of those who have learned to love you."

Ulric made no reply, but pressed the hand of Father Ursulo in silence; and, the voice of Riesbach, at that instant, summoning him to head the troops selected for the enterprize, he once again re-trod the threshold of the castle gate, and joined the detachment which was already marshalled in the front of the building in readiness to commence their march to the priory.

It was scarcely midnight when the troop issued from the town; and the stars which glittered in the concave heaven lent their faint, but cheering lustres, to guide the soldiers

on their way. As they journeyed around the foot of the mountains, Ulric detailed to his friend the method of attack which he meant to pursue. "Do you," said he, "place your detachment behind one of the wings of the priory, while I advance to the gate, and demand admittance. When the portal has been opened, you can approach, without noise, and seize the porter, so as to introduce your force, without giving the slightest cause of alarm, and while you are thus occupied, I will advance to the prior's apartment, and the signal for your interference shall be a single blast of this faithful horn, which has made many an Austrian tremble. Your aid must then be prompt and vigorous; let the prior alone be seized, for there is no ground of suspicion against the rest of the brotherhood. Leave the rest of the matter to me, and I will so

contrive that the count and his amiable daughter shall soon be freed from fetters which they so little merit. The sooner we reach the spot, the more speedily will the dearest wishes of my heart receive their accomplishment."

Riesbach promised strict adherence to the commands of Ulric, and, at the request of his friend, he beguiled the tediousness of the way with an account of his progress in the affections of Lucette; which it rejoiced Ulric to hear, kept pace with his warmest wishes. No sooner did she find that Ulric was completely removed beyond the reach of her hopes, than she began to show a greater susceptibility to the amiable qualities of Riesbach, and he so well improved the opportunities which offered themselves to him, that on the morning after Ulric's disappearance he had gained her consent to become his bride.

By the time that Riesbach had detailed his happiness, the beams of the morning had begun to dissipate the clouds of night, and when the sun rose, it shewed to the anxious eyes of Ulric the glittering turret of Chamouny shining at a distance, as the rays played upon it. Another hour's exertion brought the detachment to its gate, when Riesbach, as had been preconcerted, drew his troop on one side, and sheltered it completely from observation, behind one of the wings of the building, which extended nearly to the gate. When every thing was thus arrayed, Ulric advanced to the portal, and struck upon it so loudly that the sound was re-echoed loudly from within, and in a few minutes, the lazy porter opened the door and gave admittance to the youth, but at the moment when he was about to re-

close the gate, Riesbach seized him, and before he could recover himself sufficiently to cry out, the soldiers had possessed themselves of the Court.

CHAPTER XVI.

WHEN Ulric left the priory, Father Luke still continued to ask some questions of Ap Gryff, to all of which the bard replied with such wariness that the prior was completely lulled into security respecting the nature of the motives which had induced the strangers to visit him; and he dismissed Ap Gryff with marks of particular kindness, and directed that every attention should be paid to his wishes. "to morrow," said he, "your friend will return from Zurich, and I will then put you in possession of some secret particulars respecting the fate

of the family of Zur, which will convince you that I was indeed honored with the peculiar confidence of the late unfortunate Governor of the town, and that the presents to which you have alluded could be designed for no other person than myself."

As Ap Gryff retired from the presence of the prior, he encountered the friendly monk, whose advice hitherto had been attended with so much benefit. The holy father beckoned the bard to a secret corner, when he desired him to expect him again in his chamber in the evening, at the same hour as before, as he had some further intelligence to communicate which he had but just learned. Ap Gryff promised to await his arrival, told him of the departure of Ulric, and the friends separated; as the prior appeared, at that instant, approaching

them, and it was evident from his perturbed appearance, that he was not much gratified on discovering the familarity which existed between the monk and the Austrian.

In his chamber the bard impatiently waited for the arrival of his friend, who speedily came, and closing the door carefully, informed Ap Gryff, that some plan was in agitation which involved the fate of the Count of Zur and his daughter, "I told you," said the worthy man, "that I was obliged to visit a sick brother, whose cell was in the remoter parts of the priory. Last night after I quitted you, I went, according to my usual custom, when, on passing round a corner, a gust of wind extinguished my taper. Being perfectly acquainted with the road, I would not go back to re-light it, but stepped along cautiously and with the utmost silence towards the

spot; when, suddenly my attention was arrested by a noise which seemed to proceed from the passage which led down into the vaults beneath. I paused and listened for some minutes when I distinctly heard conversation, the purport of which I was enabled to distinguish—" Never heed that; said one whom I recognized to be the prior," they will thank us for having spared them the trouble. The Austrian Governor sent them hither to revenge him upon the prisoners, and it will be better for us to take their punishment into our own hands, than to give these strangers free admission into the recesses of the priory. One stroke of the dagger which I have given you will silence them for ever; and we will give the bleeding bodies to our guests to dispose of as they may think proper. Our promptitude and severity will gain us many friends amongst the Austrians, who will

one day or other regain the ground which they have now lost; and recover Zurich, when we may expect our reward."—"I cannot agree to do it to-night,' replied a second, "whom I knew to be an artful monk, called Father Paul," the same that assisted me to wait upon you on the evening of your arrival here—"I will, however, bring myself to execute it on the second night from this; when the dagger shall strike home, and remove for ever from your sight the objects of your abhorrence." The footsteps of the approaching monks now appeared so near, that I thought it most prudent to conceal myself behind a ruinous pillar; but in my haste to elude discovery, I threw down several large stones, which fell with a loud crash and terrified the prior and Father Paul exceedingly. "What can it be?" asked Father Luke, in a voice which sufficiently betrayed the

fears which agitated his breast, "I am at a loss to conceive," replied the other: "it was something extremely mysterious; for I have never heard of any unusual noises here; but let us make haste and leave the spot, for I do not feel inclined to linger here. I pray the virgin there may be nothing ominous in these signs." As he said this, the light of the taper which he caused flashed over the darkness, and, in the next moment, I beheld him ascend with the prior, and lead the way to the upper part of the priory; but I perceived them, as they passed by, cast many an anxious and fearful look on the gloomy recesses which abounded around them. I heard no more of them, and I determined, instantly, that I would this night, seek another interview with you to warn you of the danger which hovers over the object of your solicitude, in order that you may have time to pre-

pare against it. It was with this view that I spoke to you to day, in your way from the prior's apartment; when we were unfortunately discovered by him, and created suspicions in his breast, which may lead to more speedy and desperate measure. I know the sanguinary disposition of the prior, and I tremble least it should prompt him immediately to destroy his unhappy prisoners, if he suspects that we are planning a rescue,"

"Perhaps even now the agent of his diabolical rage may be on his way to the vaults," exclaimed Ap Gryff, starting from his seat; "if so, let us instantly begone to counteract their schemes. We have little to fear; Ulric will return early to-morrow with a powerful troop, and will pour vengeance upon the miscreants who have occasioned so much pain and misery to those who are dear to him."

The monk objected to this rash

proceeding; but the bard, whose apprehensions for the safety of his friends had been powerfully excited, could not suppress his feelings, nor relinquish his design. "If you are fearful," said he, "give me directions how to find the spot, and I will go alone. Trust to my prudence and adroitness, and no harm shall befall you through my precipitation."

Won over by the earnest intreaties of the bard, the worthy old man consented to guide him through the mazes of the priory. "But think not," said he, "that I will desert you; no, I will accompany you in your perilous enterprize. In case of danger we can extinguish the taper, and my knowledge of the place will serve to lead us in safety, without the aid of a light. Take your bow and arrows and give me your lance. I pray the Virgin there may be no

need of weapons, but if there should be, we shall be provided, and we will not be the first to make an unnecessary attack."

Ap Gryff, however, gave his guide the bow, and armed himself with the lance. "If there be occasion to commit violence," said he, "an arrow would at once betray us, but a stroke of my lance would do the business with equal effect, and could not lead to any discovery. Lead on holy father, and may the Virgin and all the Saints be with us and aid us to preserve the lives of the innocent."

"Amen," returned the monk, as he took up the taper, and led the way from the apartment of the bard, through several gloomy and winding passages, until they reached a vast chamber, which was in a state of dilapidation. All around it were broken columns; and some which

yet preserved their forms entire, although their appearance proved that the slightest touch would be sufficient to crush them into a heap of ruins The faint taper displayed not half the murky apartment, at the end of which, as the monk informed Ap Gryff in a whisper, descended the way into the vaults of the priory.

They approached a worn flight of steps, where they paused for some time, to catch any sounds which might ascend; but all was silent; nothing disturbed the serenity, and they retired behind an unbroken column, close by, to wait for the arrival of any who might approach. They had scarcely stationed themselves, when footsteps were heard at a distance, and when they had extinguished their light, they beheld the faint gleam of a taper, playing upon the columns around them. In

a few minutes, they plainly distinguished two figures, drawing near, one of whom was the prior, and the other Father Paul.

"I tell you," said the prior, "that my suspicions are strongly excited, since I saw the stranger with that treacherous Anselm: and I feel strange terrors lest any plot should be laid against me. But if you destroy the prisoners to-night, our fears on that head, at least, will be removed; and we shall have frustrated any attempt to snatch them from the power of my vengeance."

"It appears to me very likely," replied Father Paul, "that Anselm, having suspected that some harm was about to fall upon the Count of Zur and his daughter, might have seized that opportunity, when you saw them together, to endeavour to move the heart of the Austrian in their favor. But there is little to be

feared on that head. Can you find a single German, who would spare one of the remotest descendants of that cursed house, which has been the cause of their humiliation, and has frustrated all their designs upon this country? No, their hatred of the house of Zur is implacable!"

The prior paused for a few minutes, when he replied—"I am almost led to believe that this might have been the case; yet, if we kill the victims to-night, we shall place their escape beyond the reach of possibility; let whatever will occur. What objection can you have to commit the deed, since you have undertaken it? Have you not sworn to fulfil my wishes; and will it lessen the guilt of the action, in your estimation, if you delay it until another night? Shake off these tender scruples, Father Paul, for they ill become one who has taken upon

himself such an office as yours. There is not a moment to lose; it is now an hour past midnight, and in two hours more, the dawn of the morning will surprize us. If we delay until then, we cannot remove them this night."

"Then be it as you will," replied the ready tool of the villanous prior; "even now let them sleep their last sleep, and breathe their last prayer; for the light of day they shall never more behold. Lead on to the prison, and my dagger shall speedily consign its victims to the tomb."

He had scarcely uttered these words, before a loud and deep groan burst from the agonized bosom of Ap Gryff who was no longer able to restrain his emotions. The two wretches started, trembled, and seemed fearfully agitated. For some minutes, they gazed on each other in speechless terror, until Father

Paul summoned up resolution enough to exclaim in a faltering voice—"Where did that proceed from? Oh! blessed virgin, it was no human voice, but the groan of some saint who beheld what we were about to perform. May Heaven defend me from all harm; I cannot consent to commit this deed to night, to-morrow perhaps, I may have somewhat recovered from my terror, and then I will return to execute it."

"Cowardly fool," replied the prior, who had by this time somewhat recovered from the first shock of terror; dost thou hesitate because the wind groaned amongst the broken pillars round thee? Give me the dagger then, for I am determined that no power shall prevent me from the execution of my projects. This very night, and, this very hour too, Zur and his daughter shall breathe their last."

During this conversation, Ap Gryff had approached silently from column to column, until he had arrived within reach of the prior whose back was towards him; and when he found him determined upon the murder of the Count and Florida, at the instant that he gave utterance to his resolution, a stroke from the lance of the bard struck the taper from the hand of the trembling villain, and all was instantly dark as thickest midnight. At the same instant Ap Gryff advanced from his place of concealment, and before the prior and his companion could recover themselves from the terror which overwhelmed them, he had placed himself between them and the steps which led to the vaults beneath, so that they could not advance that way, without encountering the point of his lance.

The first sound which broke the

silence was the voice of Father Paul who began loudly to call upon the virgin for protection from all the spirits which haunted the chamber; while Father Luke, with equal terror, was venting his execrations on the being, material or immaterial, or whatever it was, which had struck the taper from his hand, and left him in darkness, "However said he," let us return as well as we can. The prisoners have escaped us this night; but to-morrow night, if I have the power to wield the dagger they shall not escape me. Neither spirits nor men shall step between me and my vengeance."

As he said this, the prior led the way towards the habitable parts of the priory, grasping from pillar to pillar, and followed by Father Paul, whose loud groanings and shudderings were heard for a considerable time, until they had quitted the

gloomy apartment; when the two friends congratulated themselves on the ability with which they had managed the matter, and made the best of their way towards the chamber of Ap Gryff, which they were soon enabled to reach in safety; when Father Anselm took his leave of the bard, without delay—"for," said he, "I dare say the prior will order us all to be instantly summoned, in order to investigate the matter; and if he should find me absent, he will instantly attach suspicion to my conduct, and accuse me of being concerned in a plot to destroy him, or of some other crime which may be the means of throwing me in his power, when I might with truth, fear the worst."

On the following morning, Ap Gryff perceived himself marked by the prior with a jealous eye; but he considered it most prudent to take

no notice of this change of behaviour, but deported himself towards him, with his customary respect. Father Luke regarded him with a scrutinizing look, as though he would read the secrets of his bosom, but the bard betrayed no symptom of confusion; merely exclaiming—"Holy Father, the time in nearly elapsed which was fixed by my companion for his return. I pray that he may have met with no untoward accident to delay him, for it is important that we should re-commence our journey with all possible expedition. Time flies away apace, and we do not keep pace with it."

Father Luke was about to reply, when a knocking at the gate was heard; and the prior immediately exclaimed—"Here is your companion, attend me to my apartment, whither the porter will conduct him, that we may hear of him how he has

succeeded in his journey." Saying this, he led the way to his apartment, and was followed by the bard, whose heart palpitated violently when he heard the voice of Ulric, as he approached the chamber where the prior was accustomed to remain.

As Ulric entered the apartment, Ap Gryff gathered from his animated countenance that he had returned successfully; while the prior, on the other hand, felt his hopes raised by the sight of a roll which the youth carried in his hand. "This, said Ulric," is the most important of the rolls, and it is the only one I have been enabled to recover. The Governor gave us special charge concerning this, in particular, and I now resign it to him whose property it must be." As he said this he handed the roll to Father Luke, who received it greedily, and opened it with uncommon precipitancy; but

language would fail to describe the various emotions which agitated his countenance, when he read as follows—

"To Father Luke, prior of the Priory of Chamouny—This is to command you, on receipt of this my order, to deliver to our beloved friends Ulric Gribenholt and Ap Gryff, the bodies of the Count of Zur and his daughter Florida, which, as we know from good authority, are now in your custody. Should any injury have been offered to your prisoners, or should they have experienced any ill treatment at your hands, you will have to answer for the same with your life; and you are, therefore, further ordered to deliver yourself up to the same persons, in order that you may give a true account of your conduct before me. Herein fail not, as you value my favor, or as you would avoid the punishment

which will be the result of disobedience.

"URSULO."

"Who dares to write in this strain to Father Luke?"—exclaimed the enraged prior, when he had succeeded in repressing the first impulse of his rage—then throwing the roll on the ground, he trampled it under his feet, and exclaimed—"Thus do I pay attention to the commands of the usurper, and, as for you, traitors, who have entered the priory under false garbs, dread my vengeance which shall even now overwhelm you and those whom you seek to rescue in one common destruction. Think not that you can alarm the fearful soul of Father Luke; he possesses no common feelings. Your fate shall soon be decided—Help, oh! Porter, Father Paul, monks, hasten hither to revenge the insult offered to your prior, in the sanctuary

of religion; hasten to punish impiety, and to resent the daring outrages offered to religion by these secrilegious wretches!"

As he said this, he stamped with his foot, and several monks instantly rushed into the apartment, who were commanded by the prior to lay hands upon Ulric and Ap Gryff, whom he represented as robbers, who had introduced themselves into the priory only with a view to insult and plunder its holy inhabitants. On this representation, the brotherhood advanced, to make the strangers prisoners, when Ulric stepped back a few paces, and drawing a sword, which he had concealed under his cloak, exclaimed—"Who first advances dies on the spot!" The monks gave way instantly, with terror in their countenances, while Ulric elevating his voice, thus repelled the

charges brought forward against him and his friend, by the prior.

"Holy fathers, we are no robbers, nor do we wish to offer insult to the ministers of religion. I am Ulric Gribenholt of whom you have all heard, and I am here to deliver the Count of Zur and his daughter, who are unjustly detained by your prior, who is himself my prisoner, and must accompany me to Zurich, to answer for his conduct, and to receive the punishment he deserves."

This address was differently received by the brotherhood, some of whom retired, while others still betrayed an inclination to execute the wishes of their prior, and at the head of these was Father Paul, who advanced close to Ap Gryff, and was about to lay hands upon him, when Ulric applied his horn to his lips, and blew a loud blast, at the sound of which the room was filled with soldiers. "Seize on

the prior," was the command of Ulric, pointing to the wretch who trembled and stood aghast, at the sight of the armed force which rushed into the apartment. Before the soldiers, however, could execute the orders of their chief, the villain drew a dagger from under his gown, and plunged it into his bosom, with such determined force, that his soul quitted its mortal habitation at the violence of the blow.

Ulric immediately turned from the horrid scene, and seeing Father Anselm, amongst the monks, he desired him to lead to the vaults where the Count and his daughter were confined, a command which the worthy monk instantly obeyed with an alacrity and pleasure which gained him the heart of the chief. Through the winding passages, and dreary chamber of ruins, he led the way fearlessly, and with very different emotions

to those which he confessed, when he had conducted Ap Gryff over the same space but a few hours before. He now hastened on, with a light and joyous heart, for he was the forerunner of liberty to his imprisoned patron; the harbinger of consolation and delight to the broken hearted and the despairing. In a few minutes he paused at the flight of stairs which descended to the vaults—"there," said he, pointing down the dreary abyss; "the prison of the unfortunate nobleman and his lovely daughter is somewhere beneath, but I know not the exact spot."

"Proceed," exclaimed Ulric, whose impatience could not brook a moment's delay "or if you feel fear or hesitation, give place, and let me lead the way into the dreary abode."

"Of what should I be afraid, when I go in a good cause," replied the monk, crossing himself, and com-

mending his soul to the virgin. As he performed this ceremony, he found his courage returning apace, and, in a few minutes, he was sufficiently reassured to go on his way. Down the steps he proceeded, with slow deliberation, and, when he gained the bottom, he placed the taper on the ground in order that his companions might have a full view of the gloomy space. It was wide and long, and surrounded by recesses which appeared to have served for dungeons; and one of which, Ulric made no doubt, was the limited abode of those whom he loved, and for whom he sought.

While the chief paused, as if undetermined where to begin in his search, a groan from the further end of the apartment struck upon his ears, and caused him to snatch a taper from the hands of an attendant soldier, and to rush forward to the

spot whence the sound proceeded. He had not advanced many yards before a repetition of the sound alarmed him, and quickening his speed, he perceived a monk with a drawn dagger eagerly seeking for the spot, with as much anxiety as himself, Ap Gryff, who was close behind him, without speaking, hurled his lance at the holy father, and in an instant, transfixed him to the earth. It was Father Paul, whose business in the vaults Ap Gryff well knew, when he saw him, with the weapon of destruction in his hand, seeking to imbrue it in the blood of the innocent. In a few minutes, the worn form of the Count was discovered supported on the lap of his Florida, in one of the gloomy recesses; at the voice of Ulric, the sufferers lifted their languid heads, and unable to decide whether it was a vision or reality which gladdened

their sight, they gazed with a stupid apathy; but when their fetters were struck and they felt themselves clasped in the arms of their deliverer the assault of joy was too sudden and violent to be borne, and they fell into a state of insensibility, as their friends conveyed them up the steps of the dungeons, and placed them in a spacious apartment, illuminated by the soul reviving beams of the morning sun.

When the sufferers recovered themselves, and regained their recollections an indescribable tumult of joy succeeded, and a thousand questions were put at once by the Count and Florida, before the happy Ulric could collect himself sufficiently to answer one. On the first pause, however, he entered into a recapitulation of the events which had taken place, concluding with

the scheme of the bard, which had led to the present happy meeting. "The blessed virgin be praised who has raised us up such defenders," exclaimed the Count, while the tears of transport chaced each other rapidly down his cheek—"my old years shall yet see happiness and taste of pleasure. Once again I may rebuild the castle of my ancestors, and hold a fatherly sway over my vassals. This happy hour repays me for all my sufferings, and recompences me for all my losses."

Florida said little, but the hand of her Ulric, which she grasped in her own was bathed with her tears, and her looks were more eloquent than all the powers of language. She felt herself restored to him who was of all men, most dear to her, who constituted the happiness of her life and the soul of her hopes ;

she beheld herself, in a moment changed from the gloom of a prison, pent up in darkness, and fettered with chains, to the light of day, and the enjoyment of his presence and smiles who had encountered death for her sake. Words would have been inadequate to have given expression to half her feelings; language would have totally failed to do justice to the emotions which agitated her bosom; she knew this, and was silent; her joy, her gratitude, her love beamed from her eyes.

Before they left the priory Ulric was anxious to hear the narrative of the Count, and he immediately complied with his request. Of the particulars of his escape the reader has been already informed. When the two fugitives had closed the door of the subterraneous passage, they heard the tumult which had suc-

ceeded their escape; but, being provided with a torch, they ran hastily along the gloomy path, until the light of the moon shewed to them the termination of their labours. Without a moment's delay, they quitted the subterraneous cave, and having surmounted the glaciers at its entrance, made the best of their way up the mountains, in the direction which the Count imagined would lead them to the retreat of the mountain band. The Count, however, had but a slight recollection of the road; it was many years since he had seen it, and he easily missed, and when the dawn of the morning dissipated the gloom of the night, he found himself on a strange mountain, of which he had no recollection. A cottage near at hand supplied the fugitives with food, and they found that they were very distant from any

spot which was known to them. In a state of incertitude how to proceed, they wandered from cot to cot, subsisting on the bounty of the peasants, and finding their beds in the caves and recesses of the mountain, until the day when they suddenly beheld before them the well-known towers of Chamouny. "Here we shall find shelter," said the Count; but he was deceived; the ungrateful prior forgot the benefits he had received from his guest, and betrayed him into the hands of his bitterest enemy —"We were conveyed to the dungeons from which you rescued us; shut out from the light of day; remote from the reach of those who would have protected us, we were compelled to endure the unfeeling taunts of the prior and his brutal accomplice: and every day heard the renewed threat of destruction

sounded in our ears. We saw no hope of relief and we wished for the moment of dissolution, in order that our sufferings might be shortened; but the virgin saw fit to reject our prayers, and has preserved us through every trial and danger, restoring us in a moment when we least looked for it, to our liberty, our friends our possessions and our emancipated country."

The troop headed by Ulric and his emancipated friends, now retraced their way to Zurich, after the chief had given orders for the interment of the wicked prior and Father Paul; and the Count had rewarded the faithful Anselm with the situation of head of the priory. The same night beheld their entry into the gates of the town, and the Count and his daughter were conducted to the castle, where they were received with the

most sincere joy by the various chieftains.

On the following morning Father Ursûlo, at the request of Ulric and the Count, consented to retain the government of Zurich, as Ulric declared his unalterable resolution to accept only of a subordinate situation in the councils of his country, until age and experience should have fitted him for higher employments. To the Count this decision was not so pleasing as if he had accepted the dignity which all were anxious to confer upon him, and the sense of the vast obligations he owed to the youth, prevented him from making any attempt to turn the current of his resolution, Florida, on the other hand, loved her Ulric the more for his modesty, which seemed to add an astonishing brilliance to his virtues, and rendered him doubly attractive to herself and the world.

The marriage of Ulric and his Florida; and of Riesbach and Lucette were fixed for the same day, about a week after the rescue of the family of Zur from the power of Father Luke. The bridegrooms looked forward to the day which was to seal their happiness, and reward them for their toils with the utmost impatience, and when the auspicious morning smiled upon them, their happiness was the most perfect imaginable. Ulric beheld in his Florida the perfection of beauty and virtue; the high meed for which he had faced danger and death; for which he had defied the extremities of hunger, cold and fatigue; for which he had clambered mountains, and rushed down into vallies in search of his enemies; for which he had encounterd every hardship and labour which are most distressing to humanity.

He saw himself put in possession of his promised bride, of the prize which had been offered to him at the commencement of his illustrious career; he had fulfilled every condition which he was called upon to fulfil, and the virgin had blessed him with the purest felicity. Riesbach looked upon his Lucette as the woman of his heart, and his happiness was equally complete.

Ap Gryff called forth the powers of his faithful harp and gave existence to an epithalamium on the occasion of the union of his chief, his pupil and his friend with the object of his affections, and he continued to aid the councils of Switzerland with his ability, as well as to soothe the recreative hours of her chieftains with his melodies, until several years, worn away by age, and pressed down by the hand of time, like mellow fruit,

he dropped into the grave, and had a simple tomb erected over him by the mourning Ulric, which simply gave his name, and commemorated the part which he bore in the emancipation of Zurich from the Austrian yoke. His death, however, caused an interruption of their pleasures; the sweet sounds of his harp were less frequently called forth, for Florida, to whom he had bequeathed his faithful companion, was so much engrossed with the more important duties of her situation, that she could seldom spare time to attend to music. Now and then, however, she would take up the instrument, and chaunt a requiem to the soul of its former possessor, and doubly pathetic did it seem to flow from the harp, as though it seemed to be conscious that the master which had once swept its strings with such vigorous harmony

was no longer able to call forth its powers.

Father Ursulo did not long survive the worn-out bard; he also sank beneath the weight of years; and when he expired, Ulric, at the request of all the inhabitants, assumed the government of Zurich and administered it with an integrity, humanity and equality, which established still more his popularity, and gave him deeper root in the affections of those who had always loved him.

The old Count lived to see many other cantons unite themselves with Zurich, in order to defend their rights and liberties the more effectually against the attacks of foreign invaders; and thus was laid the basis of that grand Helvetic union, which confirmed the liberties of Switzerland. The progress of patriotism was rapid beyond conception; the mountaineers rushed to arms in every part, and the

usurpers were soon compelled to confess their inadequacy to contend with the united energies of a whole people, who were combined to resist innovation.

Ulric and Florida had several children, to whom the Governor would frequently recite his own narrative, in order to make them well acquainted with the events which led to the emancipation of their country, and to impress upon their minds a proper sense of the value of those liberties which had beenso long withheld, from them; and one of his favorite maxims which he frequently repeated before them was this—" That anation which entertains a just idea of the value of its liberties, and will unite in their defence, can never be enslaved; and that, on the other hand a people distracted by petty jealousies and party divisions, will never know

the true value of their liberties but will resign them to the first bold usurper who will dare to seize them."

THE END.

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